

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 19, 1907.

Mrs. Sally C. Hughes,  
Librarian Fairbanks Memorial Library,  
City.

My dear Mrs. Hughes: I desire to congratulate you on the beautiful annual report which you have sent out. It shows that you have been at work in the Library, and that the Library has been of great public benefit. And I want to say that if at any time I could be of any use to you, I should be very pleased.

Very truly yours,

May Sherman,

Dict. C. P.

Taken from old library scrapbook  
now on microfilm.

## *Our Librarian--Sallie Hughes*

*A score of years and more  
She has toiled inside the door  
Our edifice of lore,  
Where all are kin.  
I never saw her frown  
On any fool in town  
Who came in,*

*Asking such questions dread,  
As, "Say, is Browning dead?"  
"Is a red bird really red?"  
"O where's my child?"  
"Who'll take this apple core?"  
"Got poems by Owen Moore?"—  
Questions wild!*

*But with the sweetest smile,  
Your fancy she'll beguile  
To travel many a mile  
Inside a book.  
She never stops to ask,  
"Are you, behind your mask,  
Saint or crook?"*

*That I'll be awfully bored  
With that angelic horde  
When my soul has upward soared,  
I have a fear,  
If she's not in the skies  
With the books of Paradise,  
Just as here.*

*MAX EHRMANN*

*Taken from old library scrapbook  
now on microfilm*

## MRS. SALLIE HUGHES, CITY LIBRARIAN, DIES

Feb 14 - 1927

Lingering Illness Proves Fatal  
to Head of Emeline Fair-  
banks Memorial Library.

Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes, Terre Haute librarian and one of the oldest in point of service in Indiana, died at 8:45 o'clock last night at her home, 1839½ North Seventh street. Mrs. Hughes had been in the public library service in Terre Haute for 33 years, of which 21 years were spent as head of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library.

While she had not enjoyed good health for some time, Mrs. Hughes had maintained active direction of library affairs until six weeks ago. Her failing health forced her to her bed on Jan. 1 of the present year, and since that time her condition has grown gradually worse.

### Well Known in State.

In addition to the respect and esteem which her long service had brought to her in Terre Haute, she had become well known in library circles throughout the state and had served one term as president of the Indiana State Library Commission.

Mrs. Hughes was born Sept. 23, 1856, at Liberty, Ind., but came with her parents to Terre Haute when she was only 10 years old. She was married Jan. 31, 1882, to William C. Hughes. Her husband died in July, 1890, leaving Mrs. Hughes with two daughters, Miss Ethel Hughes, surviving, and Miss Nellie Hughes, who died in January, 1919.

In addition to her duties as librarian Mrs. Hughes found time to take an active interest in many diversified affairs. She was a member of the Woman's Department Club, the Altrusa Club, the Pen and

Brush Club and the American Library Association.

**Aided Library Growth.**  
Left a widow with two small children while still a comparatively young woman, Mrs. Hughes faced the coming years with a fortitude that won her many friends. She entered the library service of the city when it was still a struggling institution with few books compared with the number in circulation at the present time. The anniversary of her entrance into this work was sometimes the occasion for her recount to her friends the small beginning of the library and the difficulties encountered in moving the stacks twice, the last time to the building given to the city by the late Crawford Fairbanks as a memorial.

It was at the time of the last move that Mrs. Hughes was named city librarian, a position to which she gave her best efforts. Through her 21 years of service she is largely responsible for the present high rank which the Terre Haute Library holds in comparison with other cities. She fostered the extension of the service to the numerous branch libraries now maintained in the principal public schools and was only content when this service was marching forward when it would have been easier to have remained less active.

With succeeding changes in the School Board as the Board of Library Trustees, Mrs. Hughes retained the same respect and always held sufficient confidence of board members that whatever she desired was provided if library funds permitted.

She is survived only by one daughter, Miss Ethel Hughes, and one brother, Charles E. Morgan, both of Terre Haute.

Funeral arrangements have not been made.

## HIGH HONOR PAID TO MRS. HUGHES

Star — 7/15/27  
Librarians Guard Body of  
Late Chief; Funeral on  
Wednesday Afternoon

Librarians from many other towns in the state are to come here Wednesday to attend the funeral services for Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes, superintendent of the staff of Fairbanks Library, who died at her home, 1839½ N. 7th-st., Sunday evening.

Mrs. Hughes' body will be taken to the Methodist Temple at one o'clock Wednesday afternoon to lie in state until 2:30. Funeral services, under the direction of Rev. Earl M. Ellsworth, will be held at three o'clock.

Many of the civic clubs will send representatives to the funeral.

### LIBRARY TO CLOSE

The Fairbanks Library will be closed until six o'clock Wednesday evening. All branch libraries will be closed during the afternoon. The city schools will close at 2:30 so that teachers and students can attend the funeral.

Hundreds of people visited the Hughes' home Monday and Tuesday to pay honor to the woman who gave almost half of her life to service to the public.

Two members of the library staff keep constant watch at the body of their chief. The staff will attend the funeral in a body.

### PALLBEARERS CHOSEN

Members of the school board, at a special meeting Monday evening, instructed Superintendent J. O. Engleman to draw up resolutions over Mrs. Hughes' death.

Pallbearers for the funeral were chosen from old friends and close associates of Mrs. Hughes. They will be W. E. Smith, custodian at the Fairbanks Library; W. F. Mendenhall, of the board of trustees; Superintendent J. O. Engleman, of the city schools; Ralph Cook, a close neighbor of the family, and Louis Cook and John Eyke, friends of Mrs. Hughes' for many years.

## City Librarian Will Be Buried This Afternoon

Star 7/15/27



MRS. SALLIE C. HUGHES.

Funeral tribute will be held this afternoon for Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes, city librarian for a number of years, who died Sunday, following an illness of several months. The body will be borne to the Methodist Temple at 1 o'clock, from which hour it will lie in state until 2:30 o'clock. Funeral services will open at 3 o'clock, with the Rev. Earl M. Ellsworth, pastor of the Methodist Temple, officiating. Burial will be made in Highland Lawn Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Messrs. W. E. Smith, Ralph T. Cotton, Louis Cook, Superintendent of City Schools; J. O. Engleman, John Eyke and W. F. Mendenhall, members of the Board of Education. Members of the Altrusa Club, of which Mrs. Hughes was an active leader, will act as honorary pallbearers.

### Libraries to Close.

In respect to the late Mrs. Hughes the Fairbanks Public Library will be closed Wednesday afternoon. A large number, representing the civic and educational life of the city, is expected to view the body and to attend the funeral.

## Ehrmann's Tribute

The following poem concerning Mrs. Hughes was written by Max Ehrmann and published in 1920.  
**OUR LIBRARIAN — SALLIE HUGHES**

A score of years and more  
She has toiled inside the door  
Our edifice of lore  
Where all are kin.  
I never saw her frown  
On any font in town  
Who came in.

Asking such questions dread  
As, "Say, is Browning dead?"  
"Is the earth really red?"  
"O where's my child?"  
"Who'll take this apple core?"  
Questions wild!

But with the sweetest smile  
Your face shan't beguile  
To travel many a mile  
Inside a book  
She never stops to ask  
"Are you behind your mask,  
Sailor or crook?"

That I'll be awfully bored  
With that angelic hoard  
When my soul has upward soared,  
I have a fear,  
If she's not in the skies  
With the song of paradise,  
Just as here.

— MAX EHRMANN.

## HUGHES FUNERAL ON WEDNESDAY

Star — 7/15/27  
Funeral services for Mrs. Sallie C. Hughes, city librarian for a great many years, who died Sunday night following an illness of several months, will be held at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Methodist temple, with the Rev. Earl M. Ellsworth, pastor of the church, officiating. The body will be borne from the home to the temple at 1 o'clock. It will lie in state there until 2:30 o'clock. The services will begin at 3 o'clock.

Burial will be made in Highland Lawn cemetery. Pallbearers will be Messrs. W. E. Smith, Ralph T. Cotton, Louis Cook, Dr. J. O. Engleman, John Eyke and W. F. Mendenhall, the latter a member of the Terre Haute board of education. Members of the Altrusa club, of which Mrs. Hughes was an active leader, will act as honorary pallbearers.

The Fairbanks Public Library will be closed Wednesday afternoon out of respect for Mrs. Hughes.

From old  
library scrapbook  
now on micro-  
film

EHRMANN, MAX

Max Ehrmann's New Book.

Max Ehrmann paid me a visit through "Jesus: A Passion Play." I have witnessed a miracle. Dead men have risen before me and ghosts have become men. Spirits have breathed, thought and acted, "even as you and I." The founding of a religion of real love by impetuous men is stripped of its superstition and I sat in the shade of palm and conversed from my house by the side of the road with Jesus and his company whom Max Ehrmann introduces to us in his passion play—the only real passion play ever produced, because we can clasp the hands of these simple fisher folk and greet them with a "Howdy, Peter;" "Morning, John."

"They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are strong, Wise, foolish—so am I."

A prophet has arisen in Terre Haute to take his place beside Gene Debs, Jim Oneal, Rob Hunter and those other voices crying out in the wilderness the modern gospel, the glad tidings of great joy of the co-operative commonwealth.

No more can anathema be hurled at the head of Judas. He has become a brother. He loved Jesus. He was a man. His belief in the ghostly side of religion led him into error; but like a man he paid a bitter price of his mistake. We forgive Judas the mistake and pity the man.

We see each blow and hear the swish of the lash in the cleansing of the temple. A miracle? No. The time was ripe for such action and Jesus led one of the "clean-up" revolts of the time, as there came a day when Terre Haute overthrew its "house of a thousand crimes."

Real men slept, prayed and talked in the Garden of Gethsemane. A man, Jesus of Nazareth—greater far than any mythical god Christ—agonized as he realized that the forces of greed and priestly cunning were closing the net about him.

I sat beneath the feathery branches of pepper tree watching the night procession of torches winding out of Jerusalem to seize the visionary carpenter. I felt with Pilate the contempt for the priests—the hired religionists. I suffered with Jesus. With a god I could not sympathize. But Jesus was a man. Bouck White in the "Call of the Carpenter," gives us a picture of the economic background of Jesus. "Jesus: A Passion Play" shows the human side of the little group of Gallileans.

"Portraits of Women," "The Wife of Marobius," "Jesus A Passion Play"—here are gems. Human questions fearlessly handled by one who understands. Every facet of the diamonds of thought polished until the scintillations scattered broadcast penetrate to the darkest recess of the mind, bidding man awaken to the truth that nothing is more miraculous than the real, nothing more divine than the human, nothing so profound as pulsing, vibrant love.

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MAX EHRMANN

EHRMANN DEDICATED

## Hoosier Writer Presents Work To Native State

Terre Haute Poet and Dramatist  
Makes His Latest Production  
Gift to People of Indiana.

Max Ehrmann, Terre Haute poet and dramatist, has dedicated his latest production, "Indiana," to Governor Warren T. McCray. Mr. Ehrmann was in Indianapolis recently as a representative of the Paul Dresser Memorial association, and after his consultation with the governor on the memorial project read to Mr. McCray the poem he wrote during a brief holiday visit at Turkey Run.

The governor was so cordial in his appreciation of the poem that he asked and was granted by the author permission to quote from it in his public addresses previous to the formal publication. Mr. Ehrmann presented the governor with an original copy and said he would be honored if permission was granted to dedicate his work to the governor.

### Indiana Anniversary Gift

In giving his work to the governor and the people of Indiana Mr. Ehrmann suggested that it be published today, the anniversary of the admission of the state of Indiana into the sisterhood of states. The author asked The Star to send the poem to the editors of the daily press of Indiana for publication on Indiana day.

Mr. Ehrmann is a native of Terre Haute. He has gained wide recognition as a poet and dramatist. While he was away from home during his college work and has had temporary residence away from Terre Haute at brief periods, he always has held himself a resident of Terre Haute. He insists that his greatest inspiration is in and about his home city.

In appreciation of honorary membership conferred on him by the Kiwanis club, Mr. Ehrmann gave to his native city his poem "Terre Haute." The new production may be considered a companion work. It was inspired by his love for and belief in the people and institutions of his state.

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Community Affairs File

Ehrmann, Max

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1935.

## Lincoln's Visits To Terre Haute Traced By Max Ehrmann, Author

Curtis O. Bridwell.

"IS IT OF interest to you to know

that Abraham Lincoln was once a visitor in Terre Haute and a guest at the Prairie House, one of our pioneer hotels that stood on the same site as that now occupied by the Terre Haute House?" asked Max Ehrmann, historian, poet, author and man of letters.

The question was intriguing—the story more so, for as the genial, courteous widely read author and writer started into his narrative, you could see that any thing that reflected credit upon or had a historical value in his community—his own Terre Haute—interested him and his interest, communicates itself to anyone with whom he is talking.

"I have always believed the assertion to be true—had been told that it was true by acquaintances and intimate friends, but I was never able to prove it until recently," Ehrmann continued and "his visit to Terre Haute bears out a characteristic that Lincoln has often been credited with, that of being more or less superstitious," said Ehrmann.

By this remark he entirely caught our interest, for you may have your own mental picture of President Lincoln—to you he may be the man that came up from rail-splitter to president—he may be the great emancipator—you may call him the saviour of your country—but to me he is the man who still brings renewed faith and hope and all I have to do is to read again and again, his Gettysburg address, with its pledge that "a government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from this earth."

Max Ehrmann, many years ago, had been told by Thomas Nelson, William E. McClain and William Fairbanks, all of them colonels in the civil war, that Lincoln had once visited Terre Haute. He had never doubted the word of his friends, but for long years he has searched for historical data and proof. It was discovered only recently in Edgar Lee Master's book "Lincoln, the Man."

### Believed In Mad Stone.

On page 148 of Master's biography of Lincoln the following quotation is printed—"He (Lincoln) believed in the mad stone and one of his sister-in-laws related that Lincoln took one of his boys to Terre Haute, Ind., to have the stone applied to a wound inflicted by a dog on the boy."

The discovery of this authentic information delighted Ehrmann and recalled to him the fact that Colonels Nelson, McClain and Fairbanks, had all told him that they had heard that Lincoln had once visited in Terre Haute and had stopped at the Prairie House.

"Col. Thomas H. Nelson was appointed minister to Chili by President Lincoln and later became minister to Mexico. Col. William E. McClain became United States deputy commissioner of pensions under President Grover Cleveland and Col. William Fairbanks, brother of Crawford Fairbanks, and a beloved man moved to Joplin, Mo., where he became a man of affairs, just like his brother did in Terre Haute. I lived at the old Terre Haute House with the three of them. The old Terre Haute

House replaced the Prairie House. The building and site of the Prairie House was owned by Chauncey Rose, another of Terre Haute's beloved philanthropists and the Prairie House was regarded as almost out in the country and the proprietors of the hostelry ran a bus from what is now the court house square and what was then the state coach stopping place and center of early Terre Haute business activities," Ehrmann stated.

"But what of Lincoln's visit, what about the mad-stone, who owned it?" Ehrmann was asked.

"I have never been able to discover who owned the mad-stone. It was a woman and the belief was most general at that time that this stone would heal and prevent madness whenever a person or persons had been bitten by a mad-dog. As a matter of fact it did cure dog bites, not by the magical qualities that rumor had endowed it with, but to my way of thinking, because it was a porous stone and when placed on a wound would by capillary attraction draw out the moisture, blood and probable poison," said Ehrmann.

### Visits Prairie House.

"There can be no doubt of the authenticity of the mad-stone story and Lincoln's visit to the Prairie House. Why not suggest that some of the advanced students at Indiana State Teachers college use this basis for a thesis or historical investigation. This surely would be of as much interest as the color of Caesar's hair, and several thesis writers in other colleges have used this subject and it is of local historical interest," said Ehrmann.

"By the way there is another Lincoln incident that is recorded in history that shows that Lincoln went through Terre Haute and this incident affected Thomas H. Nelson, one of the three civil war colonels, that I have already told you of. This incident is related in "The Life of Lincoln," written by Jesse W. Weik of Greencastle and William H. Herndon," said Ehrmann.

A reference to Messrs. Weik's and Herndon's "Life of Lincoln" shows that Thomas N. Nelson and Judge Abram Hammond in the spring of 1849 arranged to go from stage. As they climbed on the stage, they found—but let's quote from the book, Nelson is giving the description — Judge Hammond afterwards became governor of Indiana—"By daybreak the stage arrived in Terre Haute from the west and as we stepped in we discovered that the entire back seat was occupied by a long, lank individual, whose head seemed to protrude from one end of the coach and his feet from the other. He was the sole occupant and was sleeping. Hammond slapped him familiarly on the shoulder and asked him if he had chartered the stage for the day. The stranger, now wide awake, responded, "certainly not" and at once took the front seat, politely surrendering to us the place of honor and comfort. We took in our traveling companion at a glance. A queer, odd-looking fellow he was dressed in a well-worn and ill-fitting suit of bombarine, without vest or cravat."

Upon arrival in Indianapolis Mr. Nelson and Mr. Hammond found that the man was Abraham Lincoln, center of attraction at the meeting

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EHRMAN, MAY

hey had gone to Indianapolis to attend. The three men afterwards became staunch friends.

Pleased with the fact that Lincoln's visit to Terre Haute is down in black and white Max Ehrmann had written to C. M. Ellis, manager of the Terre Haute House, the following short sketch.

Dear Mr. Ellis—Upon this site (where the Terre Haute House stands) before the civil war, stood the Prairie House. Here Abraham Lincoln was once a guest. He brought his son, who had been bitten by a dog, to be treated by the "mad-stone."

A few of the Lincoln biographies mention his sojourn in Terre Haute; but they do not mention where he lodged while here. Thomas Nelson, William E. McClain and William Fairbanks, all colonels in the civil war and citizens of Terre Haute, and in their later years friends of mine, told me that Lincoln was a guest at the hotel occupying the grounds whereon the Terre Haute House now stands.

MAX EHRMANN,  
Terre Haute, Ind. Dec. 5, 1935.

# Max Ehrmann's "Desiderata" Hits Top Ten on Local Song Hit List

By BARBARA BRUGNAUX

Tribune Staff Writer

A Top 40 song rising fast on charts across the country has revived the, at times, much questioned history of a poem by an outstanding Terre Haute poet.

Undoubtedly, most of the teens and college students who have purchased and requested the song, making it number nine on this week's Tribune-Star Youth Page Top Ten, do not recognize "Desiderata" as the work of the late Max Ehrmann, Terre Haute poet and philosopher.

In fact, though the poem was copyrighted by the Indiana Publishing Co. in 1927, its authorship has frequently been overlooked or misrepresented.

The current version is a reading of the blank verse by Los Crane with a choral background, but the words of "Desiderata," (meaning things wanted and needed) have been on posters and cards for years, usually credited to Old Saint Paul's Church, Baltimore, Md.

Popularity of the "inspirational statement" has ranged from college students to the late politician-diplomat Adlai Stevenson, with many devotees attracted by the poem's soothing message, "Go placidly amid the noise and haste . . ." seemingly so relevant to the past hectic decades.

The search for the author of "Desiderata" started in 1966, after the magazine "Together" printed the poem on the cover of its January issue. "Together's" editors had found the verse in the back section of a science fiction magazine, identifying the source as Old Saint Paul's Church, 1692.

Finally, through Ehrmann's publishers in Boston, Mass., the Boston "Globe" traced the author.

It seems that during the 1950's the Rev. Frederick Ward Kates, rector of Old Saint

Paul's, compiled a booklet of poems and inspirational verses including "Desiderata," properly crediting Max Ehrmann.

But in innocent reprints and copies of the poem, the poet was lost, to be replaced by the names and sounding date of the church; thus the myth that the beautiful words were those of a 17th century philosopher rather than those of a 20th century midwest poet.

Max Ehrmann was a man of Indiana, and proud of it. After receiving a degree from DePauw University, he studied for two years at Harvard Univer-

sity, but returned to his home town where he dabbled in law and business before devoting himself to his writing.

The son of Max and Margaret Barbara Lutz Ehrmann, the poet was born Sept. 26, 1872 and wrote some 22 books and pamphlets, innumerable poems and several dramas before he died on Dec. 9, 1945.

Just six months before his death, Ehrmann married Bertha Pratt King, Smith College graduate who funded the King Classical School here. It was Mrs. Ehrmann who was to aid her husband's reputation great-

ly by editing and publishing his journal and writing a biography.

Ehrmann's works have been described as "never trite, never bromidic . . . his own thoughts spoken in his own words."

Possibly it is the latter point, "his own thoughts . . . in his own words," that has contributed to the new surge of popularity for the almost 50 year old lyrics. Somehow, Ehrmann's sincerity effectively bridges the gap between his generation and the sometimes turned-on, often hung-up youth of the seventies.

Ehrmann Packet

# The Desiderata

(You Are A Child Of The Universe)

Music by FRED WERNER Lyric by MAX EHRMANN

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MAX EHRMANN



# THE DESIDERATA (YOU ARE A CHILD OF THE UNIVERSE)

Music by  
FRED WERNER

Moderate

Des - i - ra - des - i - der - a - ta des - i - ra - ta

*Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be  
Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career,*

*in silence.*

*As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons.  
however humble, it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs;*

*Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant;  
for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to the virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere*

*they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.  
life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love;  
If you compare yourself with others; you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser*

*persons than yourself. You are a child of the u - ni-verse no less than the trees.*

*and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whe-ther or not*

4

it is clear to you, no doubt the u-ni-verse is un-fold-ing as it should.

*D.S. al Coda*

for in the face of all aridity and  
disenchantment it is perennial as the grass.  
Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully  
surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings.

5

Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the u-ni-verse, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the u-ni-verse is un-fold-ing as it should.

*Therefore be at*

6

E<sub>b</sub>

A<sub>b</sub>  
(E<sub>b</sub> Bass)

A<sub>b</sub>6  
(E<sub>b</sub> Bass)

B<sub>b</sub>

*peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy*

E<sub>b</sub>

A<sub>b</sub>  
(E<sub>b</sub> Bass)

*confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.*

A<sub>b</sub>6  
(E<sub>b</sub> Bass)

B<sub>b</sub>

E<sub>b</sub>

A<sub>b</sub>

A<sub>b</sub>  
(B<sub>b</sub> Bass)

*Be careful. Strive to be happy.*

*You are a child of the u -*

E<sub>b</sub>

B<sub>b</sub>

A<sub>b</sub>  
(B<sub>b</sub> Bass)

E<sub>b</sub>

*ni-verse, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. You are a*



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Ehrmann, Max

Famous  
Terre Hauteans

✓ Max Ehrmann, a native Terre Hautean, was born September 26, 1872, and died September 9, 1945. He was a playwright, lawyer, philosopher and poet.

What has brought acclaim to Max Ehrmann is "Desiderata." Literally, it is not a poem, but an inspirational statement, an expression of personal philosophy, a creed or set of principles to live by. The word "desiderata" means "those things most needed or to be desired." It comes from the Latin, "desideratum," and its first known use in English writing appeared in this sentence in 1652: "All desiderata shall be supplied."

How "Desiderata" came to be known throughout much of the world today is a fascinating story in itself. In the late 50's, the rector of Old St. Paul's Church in Baltimore, Md., compiled a small booklet of inspirational poems and included "Desiderata," with a credit line to Max Ehrmann. The appeal of "Desiderata" was so great that it was copied and used by the church members in a variety of ways — and the credit line got left off. "Desiderata" multiplied and spread to faraway places, and in so doing acquired a different kind of credit line: "Found in Old St. Paul's Church. Dated 1692." (1692 is the year that the church was established.)

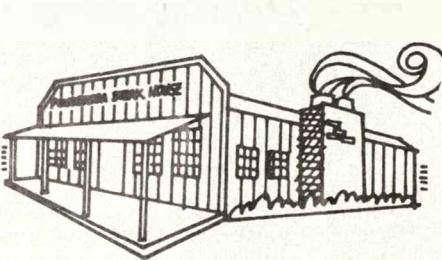
The death of Adlai Stevenson in 1965 put "Desiderata" in the mass media. Stevenson had planned to send the poem as a Christmas greeting that year, so it was publicized after his death as a tribute to him — and credited to a gravestone at Old St. Paul's Church!

The misunderstanding still persists. An advertisement in this month's issue of Psychology Today magazine offers for sale parchment scrolls of "Desiderata" with the wording "Found in Old St. Paul's Church. Dated 1692."

"Desiderata" has been printed, written by hand, quoted in letters, scrolled, and published in newspapers and magazines countless times. Newsweek magazine, for example, printed the "Desiderata" in a December, 1966, issue with the credit line "Max Ehrmann, a Midwest poet of the 1920's."

One of the most interesting developments occurred in San Diego, California, on September 20, 1968, when columnist John Sinor told his readers in the San Diego Evening Tribune how a friend had helped him in a time of gloom and discouragement by sending a scrap of paper on which this was written:

(Continued on page 4)



## PONDEROSA STEAK HOUSE

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OFFICE, OR AT ROOTS  
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HONEY CREEK SQUARE

### FAMOUS TERRE HAUTEANS

(Continued from page 3)

"Be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars. You have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Desiderata."

There was considerable readership response and many different opinions. Some did attribute it to Max Ehrmann, as reported in a subsequent column on September 27. Sinor wrote, "But who is Max Ehrmann? I still haven't been able to find out."

Then one of his readers found a brief biography of Ehrmann in a 1938 dictionary of contemporary poets in the Ocean-side Public Library, which gave his address as Terre Haute, Indiana. Sinor promptly phoned the Vigo County Public Library, where he got a complete rundown on Max Ehrmann from reference librarian Evelyn LaBier. This was duly reported in his final column of the three-part Ehrmann series on October 2, 1968.

"Desiderata" was catapulted into fame in September last year when a 45 rpm single record was released on a Warner Bros. label and jumped to the Top Ten charts nationally. Narration is by Les Crane, a well-known dj on the west coast (and host of ABC's first late-night talk show in 1964). Music is by Fred Werner, one of the top music men on the contemporary scene. Their production company, not too surprisingly, is named "Old St. Paul Productions."

Soon after, along with nine other songs that complement or interpret, "Desiderata" was released as an LP record, available also in cassette tape format.

Then early this year a songbook containing words and music from the LP record was published by Screen Gems, a division of Columbia Pictures.

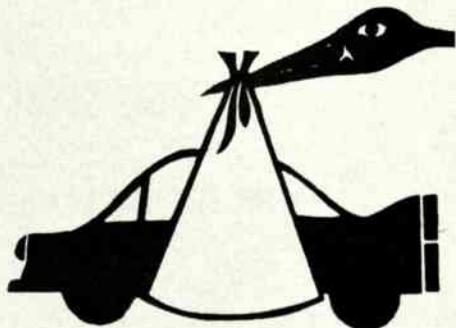
The high point in the success of "Desiderata" was reached on March 14 at the 14th Annual Grammy Awards in New York City, when it was chosen as the "Best Spoken Word Recording."

Writings by Ehrmann that have been published in book format include "Breaking Home Ties," "The Poems of Max Ehrmann" (c. 1906; c. 1910), "Wife of Marobus and Other Plays," "Fearsome Riddle," "Jesus: A Passion Play," "Farrago," and "Mystery of Madeline LeBlanc." None of these is in print today, but Crescendo Publishing Co., Boston, Massachusetts, in 1966, published a volume titled *Poems of Max Ehrmann*. This is still available from Crescendo, 48 Melrose St., for \$4.50. Crescendo's owner, Mr. Robert L. Bell, now owns the copyright to "Desiderata"

(Continued on page 6)

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# Sports Bag

The United States Auto Club sprint cars have come and gone twice at the Action Track but they'll be back in August, just in time for the opening of the gala Vigo County Fair.

While the late-model stock cars had a date at the track in June, the sprint cars have proved to be the popular ones at the local oval.

Key reason for this popularity is the closeness and competitiveness of the sprint division. As Lee Kunzman, who drove in his first Indy 500 this year, put it, "Anyone could win the sprint title. It's very competitive for everyone."

Gary Bettenhausen is the defending spring champ but hasn't been able to run in the division as much as he'd like, what with other commitments. He's become one of the most popular USAC drivers in the country.

Not only because of his great showing in the 500 in May and not only because he's connected with the Roger Penske-Mark Donohue team but because he's Gary Bettenhausen, one nice guy.

After the sprints ran here in June, he was tired and hot after finishing a strong third behind Charlie Masters and Larry Dickson. He sought out a shady spot and leaned back to relax but the kids found him and he spent about the next half hour signing programs, pictures and just plain slips of paper for his new fans.

Shortly after, red-haired Gary won a feature and looked ready to challenge again for the sprint leadership. In front of him, though, and driving just as strong are Sammy Sessions, Dickson, Rollie Beale and others.

Masters, who's from Kentucky, is in there, too, combining for what should be a torrid finish in the division and when they gather together here in August the race should be as tight as a Phase II dollar.

It was good that Masters picked the Action Track for his first victory of the year, his first on dirt ever in USAC competition and his first in USAC ranks since 1969.

The Action Track has been good to young drivers in the past and they've returned the favor when they've gained their place in the auto racing world. They return here to run whenever they can fit it in their schedules.

Masters appears ready to make that move and immediately after he won here in June, he said he'd "be back" for the next one — the next one being August 6 for the Vigo Fair headliner.

The season, of course, won't end then for the track. The midgets still have

their annual stop scheduled in September when the popular Hut Hundred will be run.

This year's Action Track season, of course, began in April when the Hulman Classic was run after being delayed a day by rain. The people at ABC-TV were ready to telecast that race to a waiting national television but rain spoiled that one.

The feature was put on tape the next day by the same people and will be run later in the year, much later they say now, but when it is run the Action Track will gain many new friends because that Hulman Classic had a little bit of everything and should be one of the finest racing shows put on television, especially with a little editing here and there.

And the thing about it is that it all happened here in Pride City, U. S. A., and happens every time a race is run at the Fairgrounds.

Much of the credit must go to the Fairgrounds race crew headed by Don Smith and Paul Denehie. This year, in addition to the local races, they also are heading the program at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

After their very first venture at that site, the combo was applauded publicly for the fine race put on by the stocks — run almost without a hitch.

We, here in Pride City, already knew that — that this team will do everything possible to run a good race and supply fans with the top attractions possible.

That's why crowd totals have been at a peak this year again and why the fair date in August could set a record.

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## action

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# NIGHT LIFE

Tasty B B Q Ribs and Chicken, and the Boone-Farne Trio for the Aware Taster. Can you dig on it? Then do it at "THE FACTORY," 315 N. 2nd. Room to spread out. The words white-painted on black walls says a lot of people believe in this place. Terrific, live acid-rock groups Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. See you there.

Dining is a pleasurable experience in the FLAME ROOM at the HOLIDAY INN, U. S. 41 S. Stained glass candle holders grace the tables, creating a soft, flickering atmosphere. Plush, black leather captain chairs and booths offer comfort deluxe. "Open view cooking," in which the chef prepares your menu selection in full view of diners, is an added beauty of this room. Two extremely talented and witty guys, who call themselves "The Jimmy Priest Duo," will entertain you throughout the evening. Their sound effects, in one of their numbers, is so realistic, you catch yourself looking for a train to round the bend any second. You'll delight watching Jimmy portraying each character he gets into, with his hilarious array of hats, and wait till you see the long and shapely leg Bill pulls out of his bag of tricks. My favorite number they do is "And Along Came John." Don't miss them.

Remember when — Fish was the word on Friday; and 10th and Locust was where to go to eat that "De-lish Fish." Guess what??? Today, on that same memorable corner, now stands the newly remodeled BRAMBLE BUSH still maintaining that top notch reputation of where to go when it's seafood your looking for. Their menu selection will astound you; Lobster — Frog Legs — Scallops — Oysters, and I could go on and on, but I'm sure you've got the point by now. Jerod and Betty believe in treating you to the best. They like steady customers, that's why.

(Continued on page 7)

X FAMOUS TERRE HAUTEANS  
(Continued from page 4)

and the other poems.

Among the many poems by Max Ehrmann is one titled "Terre Haute." Here is the last of the six stanzas: "What various aspirations man pursues!"

It matters not what visions lure,  
Here may ambition all its talent use;  
Here is the world in miniature."

## REFERENCE

**G**O PLACIDLY AND THERESA & HASTE, &  
REMEMBER WHAT PEACE THERE MAY BE  
IN SILENCE. AS FAR AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT  
surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth  
quietly & clearly; and listen to others, even the dull & ignorant;  
they too have their story. Avoid loud & aggressive persons,  
they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with  
others, you may become bitter or vain, for always there will be  
greater & lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements  
as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career,  
however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes  
of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world  
is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there  
is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full  
of heroism. Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection.  
Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity &  
disenchantment it is perennial as the grass. Take kindly the  
counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune.  
But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are  
born of fatigue & loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be  
gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less  
than the trees & the stars; you have a right to be here. And  
whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is un-  
folding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labors &  
aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your  
soul. With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is  
still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

MAX EHRMANN

*Desiderata* — a poetic formula for happiness, a gentle urging to be at peace with God and with life — is known and loved the world over for its words of reassurance. Its message, heralded on posters and plaques hanging in homes and over desks, has comforted and inspired millions of people. Television audiences have heard it from the lips of Ali MacGraw, Johnny Cash and Joan Crawford. Ann Landers' readers have found it in her column.

It's been reprinted in *Reader's Digest*, *Good Housekeeping* and *New Woman*, and in the sixties hippies passed it out on street corners. In 1972, it was recorded as a narrative song that sold more than a million copies. It's been recited at weddings and funerals, and just before his death, Adlai Stevenson had planned to use it as his Christmas greeting.

The wealthy, the poor, the famous and the infamous have used *Desiderata* as a guide in changing their lives for the better. Affluent attorneys attest to this. So do ex-convicts and ex-drug addicts. It has been used in drug rehabilitation programs. It has been shared in school-rooms, in hospital rooms, in court-rooms. There's even a woman on Park Avenue in New York who has it printed on her hostess apron.

Yet, in spite of the fame of *Desiderata*, few people seem to know the true story of its origins. In fact, many people think, mistakenly, that it was written in the 17th century and inscribed on a wall at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Baltimore. How surprised they are to learn that it was actually written in 1927 by a stocky,

middle-aged, Indiana attorney named Max Ehrmann.

The confusion began one Sunday in the late-fifties. The Reverend Frederick Ward Kates, then rector of St. Paul's, liked to distribute copies of inspirational pieces to his parishioners. That particular Sunday he placed *Desiderata* in the pews; it was printed on the church's letterhead, which contained the church's date of founding, 1692.

It is thought that the mimeographed copies passed from hand to hand until one landed on the desk of an editor. Seeing the date 1692, the editor assumed the piece was in the public domain, had *Desiderata* printed up, stuck the name of the church and the date underneath, and so began a massive theft of a copyrighted, contemporary work.

This created a costly and frustrating predicament for Robert L. Bell of Melrose, Massachusetts, who in 1967 acquired the copyright to *Desiderata* at great financial risk. "At the time," recalls Bell, "I was president of Bruce Humphries, a publishing company that was starving for lack of capital, which owned the publishing rights to *Desiderata* and which owed me \$16,000 in back salary. I was having an incredible struggle trying to support my wife and four children, one of whom was in college."

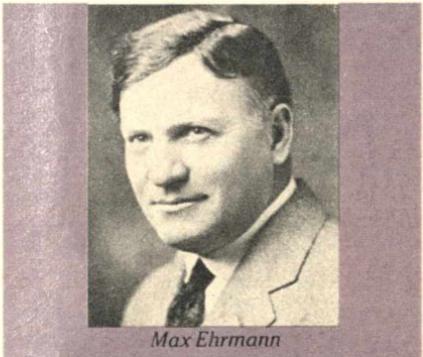
"I owned loans against Bruce Humphries and, in a court procedure, agreed to relinquish my liens in exchange for the publishing rights to *Desiderata*. Then I took every cent I had and bought the copyright from Richmond Wight, nephew and heir to the Ehrmann works.

Few people  
seem to know  
who wrote it—  
or when.

# THE MISPLACED MASTERPIECE

by Sam McGarry, Guideposts Associate Editor

"My life seemed a failure. There were three simultaneous lawsuits against me (all of which I later won), my marriage was suffering, my bank account was empty. I didn't know where to turn. One day I came home and put my head in my



Max Ehrmann

hands and wept. It was my darkest hour. Even then, I found comfort in *Desiderata*: '... With all its sham, drudgery & broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.' I needed that reminder," confides Bell. "It spoke to my heart."

Then the popularity of *Desiderata* began catching on. A narrative song recording of it made the top-10 charts in this country, the top-20 in Britain.

Bell will own the copyright to *Desiderata* until the year 2002, when it passes into the public domain. He still spends time in court, however, enforcing his ownership of a work that most people still believe was written in 1692.

To find *Desiderata*'s true origins one must travel out to the Hoosier state of Indiana, down Interstate 70, to the western border where the Wabash River swings southwest before snaking its way down to meet the Ohio.

There, in the smoky, industrial city of Terre Haute, supported by glass-blowing and meat-packing and railroad and coal-mining companies, one will find a few people who still remember Max Ehrmann, the attorney turned philosopher-

poet who wrote *Desiderata* in 1927. He was a man who, in his own words, "could never belong to anything," but who ultimately was true to himself and to the goals he set up for himself.

Born in 1872 to Bavarian immigrants of staunch Methodist persuasion, he was the youngest and most sensitive of five children — four boys and one girl. Some of his treasured memories were of his school years studying literature at Indiana's DePauw University, where he vowed to be a writer, and at Harvard University, where he studied law and philosophy and began his writing career. Some of his most discouraging memories were of his two years as deputy prosecuting attorney in Terre Haute and his 10 years as credit manager in his brother's overalls factory, where he found the work and atmosphere stifling. "To preserve my soul," said Ehrmann, "I wrote late into the night hours."

By then he knew that his works were far from smashing successes, that he could not support himself as a writer, that he would never know the fame enjoyed by his friends, James Whitcomb Riley, Theodore Dreiser and Paul Dresser — all fellow Hoosiers. Still, determined to write "beautiful books," rather than the romantic novels popular in his day, Max Ehrmann retired from his brother's factory at the age of 40 to spend the rest of his life producing 22 books and pamphlets, lecturing and giving readings. His brothers, Charles, Emil and Albert, all successful businessmen, supported him.

In three rooms at 903 South Sixth Street, the walls lined with shelves of books and pictures, the study with its stuffed chairs and elegant writing table made by Ehrmann's father — a cabinet-maker — the busts of Dante and Shakespeare gazing stoically, this philosopher-poet lived a bachelor's existence.

He was a dapper man of five-foot-six,

immaculately dressed and wearing a sandy-colored toupee — a familiar figure strolling the streets of Terre Haute with his gold-knobbed cane and tipping his hat to the ladies. He loved talking with children, advising young writers at the *Terre Haute Star* just down the street, and lunching and debating with a clique of professors in the student union building at Indiana State Teachers College, now Indiana State University.

Though he spoke out for social causes, birth control, women's and workers' rights, he dined and danced and played golf with the wealthy at the country club. He felt a tenderness for nature and wrote of nurturing a begonia back to health and of buying a stray dog (who was "en tour") a sandwich.

But sometimes the townspeople couldn't understand how Max Ehrmann could spend so much time musing on a park bench, in the middle of the Depression, when everyone else was struggling to eke out a living. Or why he wouldn't marry Miss Bertha Pratt King whom he dated for 40 years. Finally he did marry Miss King — writer, lecturer, suffragist and owner of King Classical School, a very fine girls' preparatory school — three months before he died of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1945.

He was 55 when he wrote *Desiderata*, for himself, "because," he said, "it counsels those virtues I felt myself most in need of." It traveled in his pocket for months, and it was his guide in striving for simplicity, sincerity and serenity.

Like most writers, Ehrmann worried about being forgotten. He remembered with pleasure seeing two lovers reading a book of his poems near the bank of the Wabash, and the visit to a New York bookshop, when he overheard a customer asking for "a book containing Max Ehrmann's *Prayer*," another inspirational piece. Delighted, Ehrmann introduced himself to the lady.

But he often hoped that "even when I am dead, some browser in libraries will come upon me, and, seeing that I was not altogether unworthy, will resurrect me from the dust of things forgotten."

Robert Bell feels it appropriate that the hippies resurrected Ehrmann in their discovery of *Desiderata*. "People say he was fond of young people, he was a romantic and an idealist — a hippie for his time," points out Bell.

A few days before Christmas in 1921 Ehrmann wrote in his journal: "If in an hour of noble elation, I could write a bit of glorified prose that would soften the stern ways of life, and bring to our fevered days some courage, dignity and poise — I should be well-content." That was six years before he wrote *Desiderata*.

Now it is Christmas, 61 years later, and there is a large population who would say that Max Ehrmann achieved that goal in leaving behind the gift of *Desiderata*, a message for all peoples, for all times.

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# DESIDERATA

GO placidly amid the noise and the haste,

and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all

persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection.

Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

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**Desiderata was written in 1927 by Max Ehrmann.  
It was thought to be older because it was found in the  
Old St. Pauls Church, Baltimore, which was founded in 1692.**

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# desiderata

*Go placidly amid  
the noise and haste,  
and remember what peace  
there may be in silence.*

*As far as possible without surrender  
be on good terms with all persons.*

*Speak your truth  
quietly and clearly,  
and listen to others, even the dull  
and ignorant, they, too,  
have their story.*

*Avoid loud and aggressive persons,  
they are vexations to the spirit.*

*If you compare yourself  
with others,  
you may become vain and bitter,  
for always there will be greater  
and lesser persons than yourself.*

*Enjoy your achievements  
as well as your plans.  
Keep interested in your own career,  
however humble;  
it is a real possession  
in the changing fortunes of time.*

*Exercise caution  
in your business affairs,  
for the world is full of trickery.  
But let this not blind you to what  
virtue there is; many persons strive  
for high ideals; and everywhere life  
is full of heroism.*

*Be yourself, especially, do not feign  
affection. Neither be cynical about love;  
for in the face of aridity  
and disenchantment  
it is perennial as the grass.*

*Take kindly the counsel of the years,  
gracefully surrendering the things of youth.  
Nurture strength of spirit to shield  
you in sudden misfortune. But do not  
distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears  
are born of fatigue and loneliness.*

*Beyond a wholesome discipline,  
be gentle with yourself.*

*You are a child of the universe,  
no less than the trees and the stars;  
you have a right to be here.  
And whether or not it is clear to you,  
no doubt the universe  
is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore be at peace with God,  
whatever you conceive him to be,  
and whatever your labors and  
aspirations, in the noisy confusion  
of life, keep peace with your soul.*

*With all its sham,  
drudgery and broken dreams,  
it is still a beautiful world.  
Be careful. Strive to be happy.*

Max Ehrmann

*The  
McCaffreys*

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Crescendo Publishing Co., Boston

# THE POEMS OF MAX EHRMANN

*Edited by*

BERTHA K. EHRMANN



Boston

BRUCE HUMPHRIES, INC.

Publishers

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## THE POEMS OF MAX EHRMANN

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All thoughtful persons and lovers of good literature will find in these poems much to guide and inspire them. The poetry is notable for its beauty as well as its spirituality, wisdom, and social vision. Written out of his own experiences in living, these poems of Max Ehrmann express his serious reflections on life — and our own deepest longings.

The earlier poems were written in Whitmanesque style, but the subject matter of all his poetry is a questioning of oneself and the world and the purposes of living. Much of Max Ehrmann's work suggests the poetry of the Bible. Recognizing the need of this generation for some spiritual life, the poet has breathed repose, quiet, and peace in all his poems. Again and again he has evidenced his wide knowledge of men and women, their aspirations, their common burdens, their successes and their failures.

"A Prayer" has been called one of the most beautiful meditations in the English language. Millions of copies have been sold; it hangs in hundreds of American homes, libraries, and churches; and Edwin Markham said, "It is worthy to be graven on granite."

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## THE CRITICS HAVE SAID:

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"As a writer of philosophic prose-poems, rich in epigrams, Max Ehrmann is a master craftsman. In prose-poetry he has no living superior and indeed very few equals." —*Charleston (S. C.) News Courier*.

"One rises from a perusal of these pages conscious of having communed with one of the world's teachers, if not prophets." —*Brooklyn Citizen*.

"Originality of expression and keen insight into human nature." —*San Francisco Bulletin*.

"Unmistakable power, wonderful originality, and earnestness." —*Kansas City Star*.

"These poems reflect the richness of Ehrmann's philosophy, nurtured by studies under Santayana, Royce, and James at Harvard, and tested in the spiritual turmoil of living. They are couched in words of Biblical vigor, and are the mark of the poet's success in rescuing what once were honored as eternal verities from the prejudice and forgetfulness of day-to-day commonplace activity.

"In so doing, he has brightened imperishable truths with poetic fire, and sharpened the appreciation of readers for them." — Bruce McCormick in *The Terre Haute Tribune-Star*.

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## THE AUTHOR

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Max Ehrmann, widely known as a scholar, poet, and playwright, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was graduated from DePauw University and afterwards spent two years at Harvard University doing graduate work in law and philosophy. In 1938 DePauw gave him the degree of Doctor of Letters.

After practising law for several years and being a deputy prosecuting attorney, he was connected with the business world for ten years. Then he retired to devote himself to literary work. He was married to Bertha Pratt King, graduate of Smith College, author and educator.

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# MAX EHRMANN: A Poet's Life

BY

BERTHA K. EHRMANN

"A beautifully written biography. The picture has caught his genius and his spirit."

—*G. Bromley Oxnam*

"A classic tribute . . . I have read every word with interest and pleasure . . . choice selections from his wonderful Journal . . . a rare spirit who will live on through his inspired writings."

—*Ross Lockridge, Indiana University*

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## MAX EHRMANN: A Poet's Life

Any biography of Max Ehrmann would be that of the inner life for above all else he was deeply concerned with the spiritual meanings of life, the social problems of the day and how to live in a distracted world.

Max Ehrmann was not an ivory tower philosopher. The pattern of his life was admirable. He practiced law for several years, was a deputy prosecuting attorney and later was connected with the business world for many years. His writings give counsel for wise living and inspiring reflections on life. He foresaw the problems of today, the swift changes from the old certainties to modern doubts and fears. His poems are a stirring appeal for men and women to meet their social responsibilities. His well known "Desiderata" and "A Prayer" will long remain his bequest for those who search for some helpful philosophy for living.

This biography is made interesting and authentic by the many dated items from *The Journal of Max Ehrmann*.

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"His poems have a high spiritual quality — so much thought and feeling, so much simplicity of feeling. He had a rare social vision. His passionate humanism flames in many vivid lines."

—Claude Bowers

"What a fine philosophy and wonderfully well expressed. The portrait is that of a strong man; the words are those of a gentle, earnest, out-reaching and out-giving soul."

—Stanley Hornbeck

"A veritable adventure in the highest realm. A masterpiece of high artistic and practical insights . . . spiritual discernment and good sense. Also well-balanced judgment and restraint in the treatment of this life and work."

—Francis J. McConnell

"Fascinating . . . I read the book from cover to cover."

—Margaret Sanger

"A perfect work . . . interesting throughout . . . for which all friends of Max Ehrmann must be grateful."

—Louella Everett, Boston

"Max Ehrmann is one of the most affable and likeable of men but above all else he is a student of the deep problems of life — His ambition is to convey the visions of beautiful things in life to those who have become blinded by the sordidness of material things."

"Max Ehrmann's philosophy was one of awareness, reconsideration of the values of life but most of all of usefulness. His road to happiness is strangely inviting."

Indianapolis Star

"The plan is unique and the arrangement effective . . . Here are many reminiscences of his early experiences in writing, in law, in business. Here are generous samples of the wisdom of Max Ehrmann from his Journal soon to be published . . . lovely glimpses from his life that succeed one another like softly lighted tableaux."

"Max Ehrmann often said: 'Life is not lived unless in some way one unites himself with noble purposes and deeds. Only by putting some serious purpose and meaning into one's individual life can one find relief or have dignity in the disturbed world of today.' "

—Dr. Harry V. Wann, Indiana State Teachers College

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These poems have a high spiritual quality—so much thought and feeling, so much dignity, so much simplicity of feeling. He had a rare social vision. His passionate humanism flames in many vivid lines.

Claude Bowers

Max Ehrmann has been about the world, looking with a clear eye, and tells about it with a sharp pen. . . These poems are honest and straight-forward and are written by a man who has a grasp of literature and a power of expression.

Upton Sinclair

There is wisdom in this book—wisdom garnered from a lifetime of sensitive response to a variety of experiences—wisdom characteristic of a high prudence that has learned to evaluate the physical and the ideal, matter and experience.

Indiana Magazine of History

What a fine philosophy he had, and wonderfully well expressed. The portrait is that of a strong man; the words are those of an earnest, gentle, out-reaching and out-giving soul. In them and by them he lives on.

Stanley Hornbeck

A thoughtful book for thoughtful people. One rises from a perusal of these pages conscious of having communed with one of the world's teachers, if not prophets.

Brooklyn Citizen

Max Ehrmann stands unique in the field of American Literature. His "Desiderata" crystallizes the knowledge gained through centuries of experience by the human race and expresses it beautifully and forcefully. His poems have warmth and grace and charm and human understanding. He was a man of this century who understood his relation to it and incorporated the best of the past.

Dr. Merrill Moore

Here is much food for thought and inspiration for the soul. . . depth of spirit, calm repose and peaceful unity of life. Truly we need to pause in the turmoil of life for such a feast. A distinctly unique contribution to the literature of America. He has enriched and inspired our culture.

O. L. Bockstahler, Indiana University

When a man as creative and sensitive as Max Ehrmann will come to terms with the problems before us all, his contribution is important. Here is some thinking in heroic mold.

Dr. Preston Bradley, Chicago

"A Prayer" has simplicity, majesty, tenderness. The words are worthy to be engraved on granite.

Edwin Markham

Above all else he is a student of the deep problems of life. . . a philosophy of awareness and reconsideration of the real values of life. His road to happiness is strangely inviting.

Indianapolis Star

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Max Ehrmann: A Poet's Life — By Bertha K. Ehrmann

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Here is a life of the spirit. Just as a life it is beautiful and worth while—so much food for thought. Years gave to Max Ehrmann wisdom and calm strength.

John Erle Grinnell

A veritable adventure in the highest realms. A masterpiece of excellencies seldom brought together, high artistic and practical insights, rare combination of spiritual discernment and good sense, keen recognition of things as they are and prophetic vision of what they might be.

Francis J. McConnell

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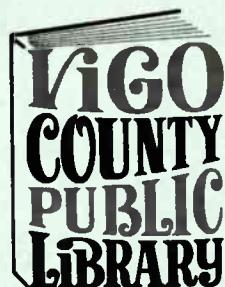
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Max Ehrmann Publications — Terre Haute, Ind.

MAX  
EHRMANN

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1872 - 1945



- POET
- PHILOSOPHER
- TERRE HAUTE AUTHOR

...Go placidly amid the noise  
and haste, and remember what peace  
there may be in silence.

*From DESIDERATA,*

*Written by Max Ehrmann  
and first published in  
1927.*

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Ehrmann, Max

# Community Affairs File

# Ehrmann's Poems Contain

T. H. Trib. - Stek 5/28/47

# Thoughts for Present Day

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Max Ehrmann's "A Prayer" had received world-wide recognition. In circulation it is said to be second to the Lord's Prayer and has been translated into 32 languages and dialects. Millions of copies have been printed in every conceivable form. It was even printed in the Congressional Record.

The inspiration for writing "A Prayer" arose many years ago when Max Ehrmann lay very ill in Columbia, South Carolina. While recuperating at a hotel there he wrote this gem of thought.

He described the circumstances in this manner: "One sleepless night I was in and out of my bed more often than usual, I had so little strength in those days. I remember only a few things about that night, one was that it was dark and damp, and another that I could hear the faintest music of a dance across the street from my hotel room.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

"It seemed to me that all the loneliness of the world crept into my soul, I grew bitter. Bitterness in a man only half alive is no edifying thing and it is likewise a dangerous thing. Somewhat in this state of mind as I remember for my own relief I arose from my bed that damp, dark night, far from home and in a strange country and wrote "A Prayer."

"I had written little pieces of prose like this all my life and most of them had gone where this one went—into the waste basket." But, fortunately, this masterpiece was saved and Edwin Markham

wrote of it, "Parts of 'A Prayer' are worthy to be graven on granite."

Mr. Ehrmann was once described as a technician of words, always choosing his phrasing with discrimination. In speaking of his composing, he said: "Sometimes I ponder days on a few lines, chiseling out the words to express the thought I wish to convey. And sitting at my desk a few times it has seemed that something outside of me was guiding my pen."

Through nearly all Mr. Ehrmann's writing, there is this recurring theme: "There is somewhere an ideal world, maybe only in our own minds, maybe of much vaster extent. Let us try to bring at least a little of that ideality into our real world—just now a very grim world."

The grim world referred to the fact that Pearl Harbor had touched off another World War and in several of his last writings, Max Ehrmann touched on the subject of war. He died September 9, 1945.

#### Began Writing Early

Born in a little red brick house still standing but due for destruction soon here in Terre Haute, Max Ehrmann began to write early. While a student at DePauw University he was editor of the DePauw Weekly. For two years after graduation from DePauw he studied philosophy at Harvard University and while there he edited "The Rainbow," the national magazine of his fraternity Delta Tau Delta. His "DePauw University Centennial Ode" brought him the degree of "Doctor of Letters."

During his lifetime he wrote twenty-two books and pamphlets, also twenty-three anthologies containing selections from his writings. The writings of Max Ehrmann have become more popular and his stature as a philosopher has increased over the years.

His work "Desiderata" (meaning things wanted and needed) has gained much publicity after the late Adlai Stevenson intended to use it for his 1965 Christmas card message. Desiderata was published in 1927.

DePauw archivist, Eleanor Cammack, tells us that the DePauw Archives has a collection of some 600 Ehrmann items, including DESIDERATA, presented to the school in 1954 by the poet's widow.

The genius of Max Ehrmann will long be remembered in these two most famous of his writings:

#### A PRAYER

"Let me do my work each day; and if the darkened hours of despair overcome me, may I not forget the strength that confronted me in the desolation of other times. May I still remember the bright hours that found me walking over the silent hills of my childhood, or dreaming on the margin of the quiet river, when a light glowed within me, and I promised my early God to have courage amid the tempests of the

changing years. Spare me from bitterness and from the sharp passions of unguarded moments. May I not forget that poverty and riches are of the spirit. Though the world know me not, may my thoughts and actions be such as shall keep me friendly with myself. Lift my eyes from the earth, and let me not forget the uses of the stars. Forbid that I should judge others lest I condemn myself. Let me not follow the clamor of the world, but walk calmly in my path. Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am; and keep ever burning before my vagrant steps the kindly light of hope. And though age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not within sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life, and for time's olden memories that are good and sweet; and may the evening's twilight find me gentle still."

## Community Affairs File

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*These writings of Max Ehrmann are available for use in the main building of the Vigo County Public Library. Also on microfilm, single pages may be copied by using the VCPL print-out machine.*

Be Quiet, I'm Talking  
Breaking Home Ties  
Desiderata  
Farces: The Bank Robbery; The Plumber  
A Farrago  
A Fearsome Riddle  
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# DESIDERATA

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"Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs; for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals; and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy."

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St. Paul's, an Episcopalian Church in Baltimore, has mistakenly been given credit for the origin of DESIDERATA. Nothing could be further from the truth. It was written by Max Ehrmann, a Terre Haute, Indiana poet in 1927 and represented a philosophy he had thought out over a lifetime. A graduate of Depauw and the Harvard School of Philosophy, he gradually turned from business to contemplation and writing. He passed away in 1945.

How did it become confused with St. Paul's? A parish priest liked it, had it mimeographed, and left it in the pews sometime in the early 1950's, where it was "found". Since St. Paul's was founded in 1692, someone stated it was found on an old gravestone (or an old plaque) dated 1692, and the erroneous story spread.

DESIDERATA has become enormously popular. Within the past few months, over 1 million records have been sold in many languages, and it has been among the top few on the record charts. It is also available on placques, posters and in many other forms.

The renewed interest has necessitated another edition of this book of his poetry which brings a long dormant, fine poet back to life. Fifth printing.

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MAX EHRMANN'S POEMS

Originality and frankness mark the latest work of Max Ehrmann just published in his new book of poems. The volume which appeared simultaneously in America and England, contains a few of Mr. Ehrmann's well known selections but those for the most part present groupings of new sketches by the Terre Haute author.

The book opens with a short, appealing drama, "The Light of the Sun." This is a departure from Mr. Ehrmann's best known productions. It tells an intensely human story of a blind woman whose life tragedy is the restoration of her sight.

Perhaps the most delightful section of the volume is "Portraits of Women." This contains a group of real heart offerings. Each verse bears a tribute. Some of these are reprinted from earlier volumes but each one seems necessary to complete the author's conception of womanhood—the miss, the bride, the mother.

The part of the volume that best reflects the author as his friends know him is "The Book of Rebellion." This is a rare collection, mostly in blank verse, which is a favorite form of the writer. Some of the ideas are advanced and even bold in the light of present day prudery. The poet has painted a faithful picture of humanity and given each a personal touch. Half concealed there is an appeal to people to be natural and live better lives. The conditions brought out are every day happenings in the streets, in business and social life and the lesson easily can be read.

On the Shores of the Sky, In the Gloaming and the Night, In the Garden of Love, The Crowded World, Tales, Prayers and Confessional, are the other groupings of poems and sketches. The prayers contain the rare bit of work that won the author world wide recognition and other new offerings. Some are in style similar to the first prayer while others in verse. In each there is an outpouring of soul for more light, sunshine in life and truth in action that will leave happiness and beautiful memories.

It is easy to believe that in his new volume of poems Mr. Ehrmann has given his best work for seven years. Stylists may not approve and his frankness may provoke censure from some persons who would avoid knowledge of worldliness. But Ehrmann could be nothing if not natural, and his treatment of life and the power that moves men and women must be accepted as truthful.

Mr. Ehrmann's publishers, the Dodge Publishing Company of New York have put out an attractive volume for the author's work. The books already have noted a demand which assures the most extensive circulation of anything yet done by Mr. Ehrmann.

New books listed at the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library include: Sketches of English Life and Character—M. A. Mitford; (illustrated in color from S. A. Forbes paintings); Our inland Seas, Their Shipping and Commerce for Three Centuries—James C. Mills; Catholic Encyclopedia, ninth volume; Documentary History of the American Industrial Society, volume 3, (Labor movement, 1860-1880), Commons & Andrews; The New North, Agnes D. Cameron.

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Community Affairs File

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## Gallery Honors Local Poet, Sunday, June 24



### Max Ehrmann Day To Be Observed With Awarding Of Portfolio

T. H. Sib & Sis 6-17-45

In recognition of the achievements of the Terre Haute poet, Max Ehrmann, the Swope Art Gallery will present a special program Sunday afternoon, June 24, at 3 o'clock with a number of the poet's friends participating in the music and speaking program.

Three of Mr. Ehrmann's works hang in the library of the gallery, the famous "Prayer," which has been translated into 34 languages; "Desiderata" and "Breaking Home Ties." He is shown standing before these in the picture above.

A large manuscript recognition statement, signed by friends of the poet and guests at the program, will be presented to Mr. Ehrmann at the end of the day.

Dr. Allen Albert, gallery director, has announced that Ernest L. Alden will preside. Miss Vivien Bard, well-known local pianist and composer, will play a Chopin nocturne and one of her own compositions. Mr. Alden will speak on "The Man," and Dr. Harry Wann, "The Poet."

"The Singing Kin of Shan" will be sung by Alice Bennett with Mrs. Edris Bennett at the piano. Emil

Taflinger will sing "Slow Forces, Slow."

Mr. Ehrmann, long a familiar figure to Terre Hauteans and known to audiences over the country through his lecture programs as well as his writings, is the author of "Jesus, a Passion Play," which is in its fifth edition.

Dr. Allen Albert, speaking for the gallery and the recognition committee, extends an invitation to the general public to attend and give their personal greetings to Mr. Ehrmann Sunday.

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## MAX EHRMANN POEM PROPHETIC



MAX EHRMANN  
1872-1945

Monday, Sept. 26, marks the anniversary of the birth of Max Ehrmann, local poet and novelist who was one of Terre Haute's most distinguished and beloved citizens. Probably his best known works are "A Prayer" and "Desiderata," both poems having been translated into many languages.

Following Mr. Ehrmann's death on Sept. 9, 1945, The Saturday Spectator had this, among other things, to say: "Although Mr. Ehrmann won international recognition with his writings and numbered many famous figures of the literary world among his friends, who will remember him with admiration and respect, it will be his local friends who will store in their memories the keenness of his intellect and the gentleness of his spirit."

That Mr. Ehrmann's works are apropos of the situation in which the world finds itself today, is evident in the following poem and excerpt, both of which were personally selected by his widow, Mrs. Bertha K. Ehrmann of South Sixth.

## ONE FLAMING JUDGMENT—1943

All things are changed. Time-honored sanctions fail,  
Uncertainty and broken happiness.  
There are no nations that the fates caress.  
Today each nation struggles in the gale.  
These are transition years, in foresight frail.  
War's agonies, corroding fear, distress,  
All leaden weights that on the spirit press,  
As in the storm Man takes an unknown trail.

O Man, stout heart, strive on, forbear to moan.  
One flaming judgment stands out clear today:  
World unity, or endless lives to pay.  
Yet in the storm there is an undertone—  
United Nations marching on the way  
To something better than the world has known.

The task is ours;  
Let us lift ourselves above our jungle origin;  
For hate and war, substitute understanding and good will.  
Without these, it is the end of the earth;  
And gone will be whatever man has made, both the evil and the good;  
This globe of matter will become dust, and roam the endless spaces.  
Whatever gods there be, must have witnessed countless such catastrophes of worlds,  
Where living creatures' brains outran their hearts.  
Science without love will destroy the earth.

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Community Affairs File

Ehrmann, Max

Terre Haute

What place is lovelier than Terre Haute:  
The foliage of her many trees,  
That trembles as the cooling breezes float  
Across the grain fields' yellow seas?

The gentle river that caressing sings  
Past shop and mill and waving corn,  
Each day some happy inspiration brings;  
Each day a thousand hopes are born.

Mere workers wend their way to pleasant homes;  
And students spend romantic days.  
Mere lofty spires and gilded domes  
Reach up to touch the sun's first rays.

Mere many a youth and maid their faith have kept,  
Labored, lived happily, grown gray.  
Mere bolder ones with keener eyes have crept  
To paths where fame and fortune lay.

Vast growing fields and treasures in the ground,  
Art, learning, too, here find abode;  
And many a forward-looking son has found  
The gifts that gods have here bestowed.

What various aspirations man pursues!  
It matters not what visions lure,  
Mere may ambition all its talents use;  
Mere is the world in miniature.

Poet and philosopher Henry David Thoreau, when explaining the experiences that had given birth to his universal themes, wrote simply: "I have travelled a good deal in Concord." A similar statement about Terre Haute could have been made by poet, playwright, philosopher Max Ehrmann, who viewed his "native city" as "the world in miniature." It provided the raw materials and the inspiration for most of his twenty-two books and pamphlets and the many poems and essays published separately in newspapers and magazines. Unlike his Terre Haute-born contemporaries Paul Dresser and Theodore Dreiser, Ehrmann did not abandon his mid-western environment for the greater literary opportunities of New York City.

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Far more than the wealth and fame Dreiser admittedly sought, Ehrmann prized the friendships and tranquillity he found in Terre Haute. Chatting with acquaintances during his frequent walks about the city, offering advice and encouragement to young writers, lunching with the professors at Indiana State Teachers College, sitting placidly on a bench in Dening Park, or exercising on the archery range--these were the activities that gave his life meaning, that filled him with the inner peace and human understanding so characteristic of his writing. Concerning this decision to pursue the poet's life in Terre Haute, Ehrmann wrote in his journal:

In large cities one's views are diffused; here none escapes one's microscope. The histories of many lives I have seen unfold year after year. Here there is romance and heroism--the whole drama of human life. Here in this smoky, commercial city that has not one bit of bronze or marble for the public eye--yes, even here let me keep my eyes open, my feelings warm, my understanding keen. Let me drive out of myself the universal madness to be elsewhere in search of the joy of life, for the joy of life resides within oneself. Let me universalize my sympathies, let me understand the young men eager for money, the young poet eager for beauty, and all youth eager for love. All this here in this dear city of my birth.

On September 26, 1872, Max Ehrmann was born in a small brick house in the 600-block of North 4th Street, the fifth and last child of German immigrant parents, Maximilian Ehrmann and Margaret Barbara Lutz. The father, at nineteen years of age, had fled Germany in 1848, following the unsuccessful Bavarian rebellion, and eventually settled in Terre Haute. The Lutz family had emigrated one year later, ultimately making their home in Marshall, Illinois. In Terre Haute, the young couple met, were married, and made their permanent home. Maximilian Ehrmann, a cabinet maker for the railroad, provided his <sup>family</sup> a comfortable home, but more significantly, he gave his children an example of integrity and devotion. As his youngest son recalled after <sup>his</sup> death, "He was a diligent, loving father and he did all in his power to show us the

Despite the many frustrations and anxieties of those years as deputy prosecuting attorney and credit manager of the manufacturing firm, Ehrmann's literary production remained constant. In 1904 he published Breaking Home Ties, a book-length narrative poem into which he put his own feelings of disillusionment with the world of business. In this poem a father counsels his son concerning the road to success in life. The ~~dear~~<sup>dearred</sup> mother, the father speculates, would doubtless have sent the son off to the city with idealistic views about the correlation between success and virtuous conduct. Having led a sheltered life, she would have believed that "Success will come by love and truth and work." But the father had encountered the callousness of the city and had seen fortunes made by exploiting the laborer and cheating the public. Thus, he advises the son to find value and meaning in the love of his work, however humble, and the respect of his fellow man. The father concludes,

For houses grand and beauty made by toil,  
Are gained more oft by mastery o'er men  
Than by kind words and gentle brotherhood.  
Love men and truth, and poverty most like  
Will dine with you, but peace will feed your soul.  
Let selfishness guide all your thoughts and acts,  
And in old age your storehouse may be full  
Of grain and goods; for truth and love of men  
Will garner only peace and inward joy.

The year 1906 saw the publication of two volumes of poetry, Max Ehrmann's Poems, issued locally by the Viquesney Publishing Company, and A Prayer and Other Selections, issued by the Dodge Publishing Company of New York. In 1910 The Poems of Max Ehrmann was published by Dodge. During this period he continued to write plays, and in 1911 published The Life of Meroëus, which dramatizes "the rights of woman to be loved for her own sake." This drama, set in ancient Rome, tells the story of Clodia, the wife, who is driven to attempted murder by the anguish of knowing that her husband loves only her body, disregarding her mind.

**Max Ehrmann**  
**RUTH HUNTINGTON**

Recently, I promised myself to learn more about this man of letters of whom Terre Hauteans are justly proud. Since then, during spare moments, in search of information, I have gone through various copies of *Who's Who*, *Readers' Guides*, and *Congressional Records*. Lastly, I have read much that Max Ehrmann has written. It has been an enlightening and worth while experience, and I have decided to share a part of it with others. The following biographical data are included in the hope that a few of my fellow club women will find herein some new bit of information regarding this Terre Haute writer.

Max Ehrmann is truly a native of this city. The following quotation from a prose poem entitled "My Native City," expresses his feelings regarding Terre Haute: "O my native city! thou knowest not how often I have thought of thee when far away. When I have wandered amid other scenes, and other men and women and children have passed me by, fondly have I thought of thee. The cool shade of thy many trees, and the memory of thy gentle river at thy margin, have been a solace to me in strange and distant places. . . . Within thy bosom I lay as a child, have grown to manhood, and shall at last rest in dreamless sleep."

Max Ehrmann received his Ph.B. from DePauw University and spent two years in the study of law at Harvard. He is a member of the Authors' League of America and was honored with the invitation to become a member of the Authors' Club of London. With the exception of a short time during which he served as prosecuting attorney, he has done that which is his life's work. "I live to try to create beautiful things, and to do some good, as I see good." This is his self-expressed two-fold objective in life; the motivating force back of all his writings.

Numerous writings of literary merit have appeared from his pen. The work which has won for him universal recognition and which perhaps best shows his aspirations is that heartful prose poem, "A Prayer," with which all of you are familiar. No other prayer published in the English language, excepting the Lord's Prayer, has been so widely circulated. It has been printed into millions of copies, translated, set to music, and is known almost the world over. Max Ehrmann has written a number of similar things in prose, but in a prose that is truly akin to poetry.

Among his writings, you will find something to fit any mood. If mystery novels appeal to you, read "The Mystery of Madeline Le Blanc" and "The Fearsome Riddle." If you wish something light and humorous, I recommend his farces, "The Bank Robber" and "The Plumber." For a more serious mood, the drama lover will enjoy his three beautiful poetic dramas: "Jesus: A Passion Play," "The Wife of Marobius," and "David and Bath-

form, you might read through Max Ehrmann's "Scarlet Women Series" and find what this author has done in an effort to help correct an ever-present social evil. Among his poems, too, you will find some in which he rebels against the present order of things. Each of us is interested in Paul Dresser, composer of the song, "On the Banks of the Wabash"; Max Ehrmann has given to us the best available biographical sketch of that famous Terre Haute song writer.

The above is not a complete enumeration of all that has come from the pen of this writer. It is enough, however, to indicate that his interest and ability is not limited to one field of endeavor. *Who's Who among North American Authors* gives quite a complete picture of what he has written. From time to time, new things appear. I, for one, shall read with interest anything of Max Ehrmann's which may be published in the future.

I believe I enjoy most Max Ehrmann, the poet, who with lyric beauty praises the gentler things of life. In our hurried, noisy world we need such poems as he has given us. The reading of these poems leaves one with a feeling of quietness and peace. The two selections below, taken from his book of poems, illustrate the qualities which I like best:

**ERE YOU LIE DOWN TO SLEEP**

Ere you lie down to sleep in the night, sit still a while, and nurse again to life your gentler self. Forget the restless, noisy spirit of the day, and encourage to speech the soft voices within you that timidly whisper of the peace of the great still night; and occasionally look out at the quiet stars. The night will soothe you like a tender mother, folding you against her soft bosom, and hiding you from the harm of the world. Though despised and rejected by men in the light of the day, the night will not reject you; and in the still of her soft shadows you are free. After the day's struggle, there is no freedom like unfettered thoughts, no sound like the music of silence. And though behind you lies a road of dust and heat, and before you the fear of untried paths, in this brief hour you are master of all highways and the universe nestles in your soul. Therefore, in the night, sit still awhile and dream awake, ere you lie down to sleep.

**EVENING SONG**

Give me to gladly go  
My way  
And say  
No word of mine own woe:  
But let me smile each day.

Give me the strength to do  
My task  
I ask;  
And that I shall not rue  
The toiler's grimy mask.

Give one loved hand to me,  
And leave  
The eve  
All undisturbed as we  
Our strength of souls retrieve.

# Max Ehrmann's Prayer Now A Shrine Of Hope

By Corbin Patrick

According to Dr. Gallup's findings, a majority of persons interviewed by his experts believe there is less real happiness in the world now than at some previous but unspecified date. That's not surprising, since time lends enchantment to days of long ago and most of us look back to a dimly but fondly remembered period of youth or childhood as the happiest of our lives. If we could recall those golden days in near-focus, we might change our minds.

This over-the-shoulder view is a pessimistic attitude. It suggests disillusionment and lost hope. There's a tinge of pessimism, too, in the opposite point of view—the kind of wishful-thinking in which the happiest day is always tomorrow. It grows on neglected opportunities. The well-balanced individual cherishes both dreams and memories but is not displeased with present blessings.

The surprising thing about Dr. Gallup's report is the number of philosophers among us who believe that humanity is improving, not only in health and knowledge but in spiritual values. They're in a minority, to be sure, but they're the salt of the earth. It's such faith in their fellowmen that gives us assurance of a better world tomorrow. The biggest percentage of persons questioned in Dr. Gallup's survey believes the human race is definitely getting worse in respect to peace of mind. This belief undoubtedly reflects their own inner uneasiness.

Perhaps they need the simple but helpful wisdom of a poem in the form of a prayer written by the late Max Ehrmann, poet and philosopher who lived in Terre Haute and was made a doctor of letters by his alma mater, DePauw University. He wrote it while sick, alone and sleepless in a hotel room. Then he threw it in the wastebasket. The next morning a maid brought it back to him, saying it was such beautiful writing it should not be thrown away. So Mr. Ehrmann thought better of it. The people of Terre Haute think well enough of it to have it exhibited on a bronze plaque in their Sheldon Swope Art Gallery.

This is Max Ehrmann's prayer:

"Let me do my work each day; and if the darkened hours of despair overcome me, may I not forget the strength that comforted me in the desolation of other times. May I still remember the bright hours that found me walking over the silent hills of my childhood, or dreaming on the margin of the quiet river, when a light glowed within me, and I promised my early God to have courage amid the tempests of the changing years. Spare me from the bitterness and from the sharp passions of unguarded moments. May I not forget that poverty and riches are of the spirit. Though the world know me not, my thoughts and actions be such as shall keep me friendly with myself.

"Lift my eyes from the earth, and let me not forget the uses of the stars. Forbid that I should judge others lest I condemn myself. Let me not follow the clamor of the world, but walk calmly in my path. Give me a few friends who will love me for what I am; and keep ever burning before my vagrant steps the kindly light of hope. And though age and infirmity overtake me, and I come not within sight of the castle of my dreams, teach me still to be thankful for life, and for time's olden memories that are good and sweet; and may the evening's twilight find me gentle still."

# EHRMANN DEDICATES NEW POEM TO GOVERNOR WARREN T. M'CRAY

TH STAR December 11, 1922

## Hoosier Writer Presents Work To Native State

### Terre Haute Poet and Dramatist Makes His Latest Production Gift to People of Indiana.

Max Ehrmann, Terre Haute poet and dramatist, has dedicated his latest production, "Indiana," to Governor Warren T. McCray. Mr. Ehrmann was in Indianapolis recently as a representative of the Paul Dresser Memorial association, and after his consultation with the governor on the memorial project read to Mr. McCray the poem he wrote during a brief holiday visit at Turkey Run.

The governor was so cordial in his appreciation of the poem that he asked and was granted by the author permission to quote from it in his public addresses previous to the formal publication. Mr. Ehrmann presented the governor with an original copy and said he would be honored if permission was granted to dedicate his work to the governor.

#### Indiana Anniversary Gift.

In giving his work to the governor and the people of Indiana Mr. Ehrmann suggested that it be published today, the anniversary of the admission of the state of Indiana into the sisterhood of states. The author asked The Star to send the poem to the editors of the daily press of Indiana for publication on Indiana day.

Mr. Ehrmann is a native of Terre Haute. He has gained wide recognition as a poet and dramatist. While he was away from home during his college work and has had temporary residence away from Terre Haute at brief periods, he always has held himself a resident of Terre Haute. He insists that his greatest inspiration is in and about his home city.

In appreciation of honorary membership conferred on him by the Kiwanis club, Mr. Ehrmann gave to his native city his poem "Terre Haute." The new production may be considered a companion work. It was inspired by his love for and belief in the people and institutions of his state.

## PAMPHLET FILE

# INDIANA

(Dedicated to Governor Warren T. McCray.)

By Max Ehrmann

The pioneers lie in their earthen beds.  
Still show their faith and brawn to do and dare,  
In cities that lift high their lofty heads,  
In pleasant towns that prosper everywhere.

What sturdy men have plowed these fertile fields,  
Here in this land where pleasant rivers run—  
Where wayside flowers, forests, harvest yields  
Are nursed by never-failing rain and sun!

A toiling, peaceful life this people leads,  
Not moved by red rebellion's scarlet leer,  
Nor whirlwinds shouting out sophomoric creeds.  
The world's turmoils touch us but lightly here.

If in some future time our country fall  
On rocks of evil days, this middle land  
Will lift her up, her sanity recall,  
And bind her wounds as with a mother's hand.

For here we know no sections, east or west,  
Or north or south. Here are the people bound  
By many sacred ties to all the rest.  
Here is the heartbeat of the nation sound.

Dear Indiana, always, as of old,  
Keep thou thy soul unsullied as the sea,  
Despising tyrants, whether mobs or gold—  
Compassionate mother of a people free.

# Birth Anniversary of Ehrmann

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

TR/ST

9/22/57

This week marks the birth anniversary of the late Max Ehrmann, well-known writer and poet, who was born in Terre Haute, September 26th, 1872. His birthdays were always serious occasions to him, for memories, and for looking forward.

The opening words in his famous Journal begun in 1917 and kept through twenty years, concerned his family. He was the son of Max Ehrmann and Margaret Barbara Lutz. After the unsuccessful revolution of 1848 in Germany, the father, a youth of nineteen years, set forth alone from his home in Bavaria for America. He

Dorothy J. Clark landed in New York, worked his way westward, and remained in Terre Haute. A year later the Lutz family, also from Bavaria, came to America, stopped in Terre Haute but went on to farms in Marshall, Illinois. The families in Germany had no knowledge of each other, yet the young Margaret Lutz and Max Ehrmann met in Terre Haute and were married. Their fifth and last child was to be Max Ehrmann.

## Father Was Cabinet Maker.

The father, Max Ehrmann, was a cabinet maker and during and after the Civil War he did the fine woodwork on the interior of Pullman cars for the Pennsylvania railroad.

A frequent visitor at their home was big, bluff Grandfather Lutz from Marshall. Born in 1799, Christian Lutz had lived through and witnessed much of recent German history and often told his grandchildren stories of his youth in Germany. He also told them of the first people going over to Marshall from Terre Haute, a distance of about sixteen miles. They had found their way through forests, breaking off branches from the trees to show their paths which in time became the present highway from Terre Haute to Marshall. For years the road was filled with deep ruts and fearful mud. It took one day for the Lutz farmers to drive to Terre Haute with their farm products and the next day to drive back.

## Entered Harvard.

After graduation from DePauw, Max Ehrmann entered the post-graduate School of Philosophy at Harvard University and for two years specialized in law and philosophy. It was here that he met another famous Terre Hautean, Eugene Debs.

The varied career of Max Ehrmann helped to mold his thinking along the lines of social protest. Even though six of his books had been published, he realized he could not make a living by writing poetry and drama. So he took up the practice of law, was admitted to the bar, and became a deputy prosecuting attorney here in Terre Haute. He took an active part in politics, and was offered the nomination for state senator when he was twenty-five years old. For several years he was president of the Terre Haute Literary Club and read a paper every year.

In 1903 when James Whitcomb Riley spoke before a packed audience at the Grand Opera House here, Max Ehrmann introduced him. This led to an acquaintance with Riley that continued through the years. Max Ehrmann at the age of twenty-six was already known as a thinker and reformer on public questions. Soon he began giving his lectures and reading from his own poems on a midwestern tour.

For himself he wrote these lines and for years kept them on his desk: "Keep interested in your own career. See in the future some progress, however little. Know that to begin cheerfully again, when you

have failed, is itself a great success. Maintain the respect of them that meet you day by day through sincerity, not servility. Condemn conditions rather than men. Believe and say some good of life. And though you lash injustice with bitter words, be still sweet at heart. Here is a battlefield for the courage of a hero."

The writings of Max Ehrmann have become more popular and his stature as a philosopher has increased over the years. "A Prayer" has become famous, and is found framed and hanging in many offices, schools and private homes all over the world. "Desiderata" has become very well-known by appearing on Christmas greeting cards last year and printed on parchment for framing.

Despite a serious heart condition, Mrs. Max Ehrmann has published four books of her husband's later works since his death September 9th, 1945. She has edited a book of his poems, his biography and his Journal. I was privileged to see the many scrapbooks she has compiled of press notices, clippings of his work which have been published in magazines, newspapers and other publications all over the country, and most interesting of all are the letters she has received from famous people in all walks of life. These letters from educators, ministers, news commentators, Congressmen, all prominent people in their various fields, acclaim the writings of Max Ehrmann and her efforts in presenting his later works to the reading public.

Most of Max Ehrmann's original manuscripts, scrapbooks, etc., have been placed in the DePauw Archives by his widow. As we talked, Mrs. Ehrmann and I, she remarked how far ahead of his time was her late husband. As early as 1927 he wrote an article, "Lifting the Veil," in the Harvard Graduates' Magazine, in which he set forth a theory that the riddles of the universe might be solved by the supermen of science and mechanical contrivances—all in line with the advanced, scientific thought of today. She mentioned how interested Max Ehrmann would have been in the Air Force Major's balloon flight—space travel nineteen miles above the earth into the black unknown.

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MAX  
EHRMANN

**Widely Quoted Poem.**

In 1940 Max Ehrmann published a long poem "War" whose conclusion has become increasingly one of his most-quoted poems:

"The task is ours:  
Let us lift ourselves above our  
jungle origin;  
For hate and war, substitute  
understanding and good  
will.

Without these, it is the end of  
the earth;

And gone will be whatever  
man has made, both the  
evil and the good;

This globe of matter will be-  
come dust, and roam the  
endless spaces.

Whatever gods there be, must  
have witnessed countless  
such catastrophes of worlds,  
Where living creatures' brains  
outran their hearts.

Science without love will de-  
stroy the earth."

Quoting from Mrs. Ehrmann's  
words—"This, then, is the mes-  
sage of Max Ehrmann. Here is a  
beautiful world in which there is  
abundance for man's needs. Only  
ourselves can bring about any  
better social order. Only ourselves  
can bring any peace to a world  
in chaos."

# Max Ehrmann's Journal Praised By Eminent American Scholars

T. H. Triib?

By Mable McKee.

The late Max Ehrmann, wrote in his Journal on Sept. 26, 1918, "Today is my birthday. The supreme reward would be to see some fruition of our labors as we grow older. the world really growing kind."

Eighteen years later he made another notation on his birthday, in which he told of how his townspeople who knew the day belonged to him had observed it, ending with, "Dear friends here at home, you will never read this; but in my daily walk, I will try to tell you of my gratitude for your affection. It has been a happy day."

Sixteen years later his Terre Haute friends are reading those words of his in "The Journal of Max Ehrmann," edited by his wife, Bertha K. Ehrmann, and thanking her for allowing it to be published. It was their real introduction to the man with whom they walked and talked for many years. For in it he wrote as he said, "The things that help me to live, a testimonial to the worth of life."

On the same day, Sept. 26, 1952, other people were reading "The Journal of Max Ehrmann"—great men and women in America and being moved by the words Max Ehrmann wrote when he came from long walks, after he had talked with friends, after he had studied the deeds and heard the words about him—moved so they have written letters to Mrs. Ehrmann, telling her how highly they value the book.

Claude Bowers, the poet's friend, wrote that in it one finds something both wise and beautiful. Bishop Francis McConnell termed The Journal "an extraordinary book for which even the most ordinary of us must be grateful."

Rupert Hughes said that when he "dipped" into the book at random be always found "something wise, beautifully thought out and expressed."

At the same time thousands of people who attend regularly or visit The Peoples Church of Chicago are finding something wise, "beautifully thought out and expressed" by Terre Haute's loved poet when they read on the cover of each Sunday's program of services, accompanying the print of their beautiful church:

"Whoever thou art that entereth here,  
Forget the struggling world  
and every trembling fear;  
Here all are kin of God above—  
thou, too, dear heart:  
And here the rule of life is  
love."

—Max Ehrmann.

We who know the poems of Max Ehrmann whisper to ourselves, "From 'Who Entereth Here'."

Mrs. Ehrmann, who saw the cover and read the words of one of the favorites of her husband's poems a few Sundays ago thought that it just happened that the quotation from "Who Entereth Here" had been used on this booklet on this Sunday. Later she learned that it is on the cover of each Sunday's program at The People's Church at Lawrence avenue at Sheridan Road of which Dr. Preston Bradley, famous for his sermons, is pastor.

Then she thought of the birthday, Sept. 26, 1918, on which the poet who was not yet middle aged wrote, "The supreme reward would be to see some fruition of our labors as we grow older."

In the letters she received daily, Mrs. Ehrmann sees the fruition of his labors and also her own, for carefully she edited the Journal, selecting the special passages which contained the essence of his thoughts—the paragraphs which "helped him to live, a testimonial to the worth of life."

And back to her have come these testimonials of people who are being inspired by his thoughts—the paragraphs which "helped him to live, a testimonial to the worth of life."

And back to her have come these testimonials of people who are being inspired by his thoughts as he wrote them in this book during 20 of the best years of his life.

Rupert Hughes: "I have been hoping to find words to express my continued and enlarged admiration for the prose and poetry of your husband. I have kept this Journal on my desk and dipped into it continually, at random, always finding something wise, beautifully thought out and expressed. There is a wonderful variety of subjects and moods and this book is already a classic. Please believe me proud to possess it."

Bliss Perry: "A beautiful piece of editorial work. I dropped all other reading in order to finish every word of it. I regret that I never met your gifted husband for we would have found a hundred things to talk about. I like especially the last ten years of the Journal—he grew steadily with deeper wisdom as a citizen of this puzzling world. I thank you warmly for the pleasure given me."

Claude Bowers: "Not only I, but my wife and daughter have read with fascination and delight this Journal of Max Ehrmann. My wife has read it more than once for it is possible to open the book haphazard and find something both wise and beautiful. As Journals go, this deserves to rank with the classics. Let me congratulate you on a fine editorial job. This journal should have good reviews in papers that appeal to intellectual people."

Mark Van Doren: "I have read this Journal of Max Ehrmann with the greatest pleasure not only for the wise and generous thoughts but for the record it leaves of a man you are to be envied for having known as you did. Everybody must be grateful for what you have done to make that record clear and these thoughts available."

H. V. Kaltenborn: "I look forward to the pleasure of reading this Journal. If it echoes the fine spirit of the 'Desiderata' it will be very much worth while."

Herbert Agar: "I am delighted to have this book. I have heard from my friends that it is an important contribution."

Raymond Fosdick: "I have not had the opportunity to read it through, yet I thumbed it over last night and know it is the kind of book I shall read with the deepest interest. I shall take the liberty of passing it on to my brother."

Bishop Francis McConnell:

have greatly enjoyed this Journal. I read every word of it many times. The excellencies we expect in masterly writing are all there—and other excellencies altogether unusual. There is superlative humility. Nothing is one sided that has two-sidedness. The marvelous sensitiveness of the author was a vast delight to me. Above all there is a passionate interest in common humanity. There is, too, a regard for the great man. I could go on and on. This is an extraordinary book for which even the most ordinary of us must be grateful."

Stanley Hornbeck: "This Jour-

nal should be greatly helpful to those reaching for the truths and beauty of human existence. I am especially interested in the breadth of his interests, by the humanness of his reactions to physical and spiritual phenomena. The story of his efforts to 'grow in wisdom' is inspiring as also the lucid sincerity of his recordings. So, too, is that of his activities as a man and a citizen."

Elmer Davis: "My heartiest thanks for this Journal into which I have been dipping when this rush of politics leaves me time. I par-

icularly appreciate some of the reflections since I also am the grandson of a German who always loved his native land but despised its government."

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Community Affairs File



TERRE HAUTE POET HONORED BY DePAUW UNIVERSITY  
—Max Ehrmann, left, receive honorary degree of doctor of letters from President Clyde E. Wildman at commencement.

## Max Ehrmann Tells His Own Life Story

Born 1872. Worked from 13 to 17 years of age. Entered DePauw University 1890 and graduated in 1894.



Post-graduate student in philosophy at Harvard, 1894-95 and 97-98. At Harvard edited "The Rainbow," a national college fraternity magazine, 1898. "A Farraugo," first book published. Studied law and practiced for two years. Deputy state's attorney one year. Declined nomination to the State Senate at 26. 1899 "Society and the sur-

MAX EHRMANN. vival of the Fittest"—lecture. 1899, "The Mystery of Madeline Le Blanc," second book published. (Six editions.) 1899, "The Pessimism of Schopenhauer"—lecture. 1900, wrote "The Animals," a play. 1901, "The Animals" produced—failed. 1901, "A Century of American Literature"—lecture. 1902, began to give public readings from his works and continued occasional public readings throughout the United States. 1902, "A modern Metaphysical Doctrine"—lecture. 1903, published "A Prayer" (many editions). 1904, published "Breaking Home Ties," a third book. 1905, "Breaking Home Ties" set to music by Krull in Berlin. 1906, public readings of "Breaking Home Ties." 1906, published "A Prayer and Selections," fourth book. 1906, published "Poems," fifth book. 1907, "Some Canons of Art"—lecture. 1907, published "Who Entereth Here and Selections," sixth book. 1910, elected a member of the Authors' Club of London. The volume now published is a complete collection of the shorter prose and verse poems, including "The Light of the Sun."

"I never have desired the reputation of being a poet; I would rather be known as a servant of men. If I have written poetry, it was in the hope that I might help at least a little to soften the hard places in life, to arouse the slumbering against injustice, and to

make more clear the possibility of the brotherhood of man. It is a beautiful world, but not well organized. Let every one, therefore, lift his voice for justice. In my imperfect way I have lifted mine; and the hope of a better and sweeter life has been the purport of my songs."—From lecture on "Some Canons of Art."

The part of the volume that best reflects the author as his friends know him is "The Book of Rebellion." This is a rare collection, mostly in blank verse, which is a favorite form of the writer. Some of the ideas are advanced and even bold in the light of present day prudery. The poet has painted a faithful picture of humanity and given each a personal touch. Half concealed there is an appeal to people to be natural and live better lives. The conditions brought out are every day happenings in the streets, in business and social life and the lesson easily can be read.

On the Shores of the Sky, In the Gloaming and the Night, In the Garden of Love, The Crowded World, Tales, Prayers and Confessional, are the other groupings of poems and sketches. The prayers contain the rare bit of work that won the author world wide recognition and other new offerings. Some are in style similar to the first prayer, while others in verse. In each there is an outpouring of soul for more light, sunshine in life and truth in action that will leave happiness and beautiful memories.

It is easy to believe that in his new volume of poems Mr. Ehrmann has given his best work for seven years. Stylists may not approve and his frankness may provoke censure from some persons who would avoid knowledge of worldliness. But Ehrmann could be nothing if not natural, and his treatment of life and the power that moves men and women must be accepted as truthful.

Mr. Ehrmann's publishers, the Dodge Publishing Company of New York, have put out an attractive volume for the author's work. The books already have noted a demand which assures the most extensive circulation of anything yet done by Mr. Ehrmann.

is expected to banish the "noise of the world." The author does not enlighten us as to whether the insect was a mosquito or a June bug.

Occasionally Mr. Ehrmann borrows his inspiration from other poets. He gives a version of Villon's famous inquiry as to the whereabouts of the snows of yesterday, only he asks after the "loves of other years," and no mention whatsoever is made of F. Villon. There is also an Indiana rendering of Kingsley's request that Mary should call the cattle home, appearing as "Upon Neponset's Shore."

These are stanzas in a portion of the book called "In the Gardens of Amour." wherein, considering that the author is a confirmed bachelor, he displays the utmost sympathy for all unmarried folk. His feelings are particularly touched by the vision of lonesome ladies, all of whom apparently have missed their mates. One wails pathetically, "Am I not worthy? Have I not been good?" while another asks, "Am I not meek?"

Apparently both the Man from Home and the Gentleman from Indiana ought both to go right straight back there, where they would be so much appreciated.

Amid these bits of poesy one finds a quatrain written as a motto for the overall factory:

Tis great to dream,  
Though one should be a shirker;  
But greater far,  
To dream and be a worker.

### MAX EHRMANN'S POEMS.

MAX EHRMANN'S POEMS are being widely noticed.

In commenting on the book, the Buffalo Courier said, "It shows a deep vein of undeniable genius."

The Baltimore American says: "Mr. Ehrmann has shown himself to be a master of the technique of verse."

The Cleveland Plain Dealer pronounced the book "remarkable," and in part, "fiercely iconoclastic."

The Seattle Times says: "In this book of poems Mr. Ehrmann shows considerable versatility. Besides showing in his love poems that he is a true student of the human heart, the last poem in the book, "The Task," is an almost savage attack upon the atrocities of accumulated wealth. Here he has painted the pictures of despair, and sounded the cries of the human heart in a way they have not been often done before."

A notable book.—Kansas City Star.

Originality is the most notable feature.—Detroit News.

The author never misses his point.—Minneapolis Journal.

Some choice particulars of fact and fancy.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Max Ehrmann's Poems are too well known to need a laudatory introduction.—St. Louis Republic.

"On the Mountain Top" and "A Letter to a Solitary," are classics of their kind, simple, beautiful and straight from the serious part of one's experience. There is a largeness about this volume, a sweep of expression that covers a wide range of experience, and life is here viewed as from a great eminence.—Scranton Times.

The spirit is wholesome and the philosophy sound.—Indianapolis Star.

Judging from the above, and many other press notices Mr. Ehrmann's last book is destined to a high place in contemporary literature.

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See preceding page (2)

Community Affairs File

# Riley, Dreiser And Debs Recalled In Ehrmann Book

5/10/22/58

**A**N article of special interest to Terre Haute appears in the September issue of The Indiana Magazine of History. It is titled "Reminiscences of Max Ehrmann." In it they get advance glimpses of some of the material Mrs. Max Ehrmann has used in her biography, "Max Ehrmann: a Poet's life" to be published soon. Mrs. Ehrmann herself wrote the article, selecting from her book manuscript some recollections of Max Ehrmann about the late Eugene Debs, Theodore Dreiser and James Whitcomb Riley. The recollections are taken from a journal in which for twenty years Max Ehrmann wrote his thoughts on literature, religion, philosophy and kindred subjects.

Max Ehrmann during his lifetime often contributed to the Indiana Magazine of History, copies of which may be found at the Fairbanks and the Indiana State Teachers College libraries.

## To A Lyric Poet.

The article tells of how Max Ehrmann, then a rising young poet, in 1903 introduced James Whitcomb Riley when he came to Terre Haute to speak at the Grand Opera House and of the friendship between the two which followed. There follows a charming sonnet which Ehrmann wrote to the Hoosier Poet, entitled, "To a Lyric Poet."

In his journal the Terre Haute poet later wrote of Riley, "Riley had gentleness and a keen eye for the personal joys and sorrows of plain people—he was a poet of the people—he brought solace and laughter to thousands and so his life made for amelioration. He sang of a culture that has already passed away and now are only lovely memories in an age of machines and haste."

In his journal on June 6, 1932, Max Ehrmann wrote about the poverty Theodore Dreiser knew while writing "An American Tragedy." He touches on a few days he spent with Dreiser in Washington where he was obtaining material for an article on Paul Dresser, brother of Theodore. He closes this entry in his journal that day by saying that

Dreiser in "An American Tragedy" did a great work.

## Memories of Debs.

The journal takes readers into glimpses of the friendship between Eugene Debs and the Terre Haute poet, tells of discussions they had as Ehrmann himself described them a short time, sometimes a few hours after they were held.

Mrs. Ehrmann's article quotes from the Journal, using the words of her late husband in describing Debs at different periods when they often met during 1903 to 1917

when that close friendship was broken, Ehrmann being shocked by Debs' attitude toward the war.

It also tells of occasions on which Max Ehrmann gave readings of his poems; of the plays he wrote, among which was "The Bank Robbery" which some Terre Hauteans no doubt remember.

The Indiana Magazine of History contains a review of "The Wife of Marobius and Other Plays" of Max Ehrmann which Mrs. Ehrmann also edited and in it lists all of the plays in the volume.

Mrs. Ehrmann's article might well be termed an introduction to her book which will soon come off the press. It might well be termed reminiscences of the late Terre Haute poet with other famous Hoosiers.

# Terre Haute's Beloved Poet; Memories Of Late Max Ehrmann, In New Book

J-213/51

By Dr. Harry V. Wann.

"Max Ehrmann: A Poet's Life" has just come from the press. Written by Mrs. Max Ehrmann and published by Bruce Humphries, it is an attractive book, handsomely bound.

I remember seeing, in some now-forgotten museum, an old painting in which a lapidary, with infinite care and loving touch, polishes the myriad facets of a precious jewel. Under his magic fingers the jewel, to whose intrinsic worth it would be futile to attempt to add anything, takes fire and glows with a renewed brilliance. The lapidary seems to be saying, not "See how skilful I am!" but "See how beautiful it is when seen to advantage!"

I thought of the lapidary when I read Mrs. Max Ehrmann's book, which will be of great interest to Terre Haute and to the friends of Max Ehrmann as well as the general public.

A great part of the book is drawn from the Journal which he kept for twenty years. Almost every statement in regard to his life, his ideals, his dreams, his ponderings, his work, his play, is at once substantiated by a citation in his own words. One has the eerie sensation of reading about him with his spirit sitting by one's side, nodding approvingly from time to time. To me it made Max Ehrmann really live again. I could almost hear his voice, now soft and reminiscent as he evokes scenes from his childhood and youth, vibrant when he relives those days with his famous Harvard professors — James, Santayana, Munsterburg, Royce, Palmer, Norton, or those fellow Hoosiers, Dreiser, Riley and Debs, sad and reflective as he searches the starry heavens for answers to the problems that gripped his soul — social injustice, ceaseless war and travail in an otherwise beautiful world.

In this book are reminiscences of Max Ehrmann's early experiences in writing, in law practice and in business. There is in it much of Terre Haute and many local references. His love for DePauw University and his frequent returns to its campus attest to the debt that he owed it in his formative years.

One chapter entitled "The Professors" is devoted to appreciations of Max Ehrmann by certain professors at Indiana State Teachers College. Among them are Dr. J. E. Grinnell, Dr. W. P. Allyn, Dr. Dewey Annakin, Dr. J. F. Mackell, Dr. C. E. Morgan and Dr. Harry V. Wann — an outgrowth of their interesting conversations at their frequent lunches together at the college. Other appreciations in the book are given by Ernest Alden and by Bruce McCormick of the Terre Haute Star. Also there is a beautiful tribute by Claude Bowers.

Another chapter is devoted to the wide reviews of his writings as found in his eight volumes of press notices, showing the recognition of his work by newspapers and magazines and American and English authors.

In the chapter on "Reflections" is given a picture of his daily life and activities in Terre Haute and many excerpts from the Terre Haute Tribune and Star and Spectator, which reveal how much Max Ehrmann was loved in his native city.

In the final chapter, "His Message," is found much of his wisdom and philosophy. For example, he often said:

"Neither science nor the arts can solve our moral problems. Why all these billions of people forever reproducing themselves and religions forever begging some god to solve their problems for them? For this shirking of our responsibilities we pay only in more social problems."

Life is not lived unless in some way one unites himself with noble purposes and deeds. Only by putting some serious purpose and meaning into one's individual life can one find relief or have dignity in the disturbed world of today."

Those who read this book, with its generous samples of the wisdom of Max Ehrmann, will look forward to the publication of the Journal, which has been edited by Mrs. Max Ehrmann and will appear next summer.

The plan of "Max Ehrmann: A Poet's Life" is unique and its arrangement effective. Instead of bearing a chronological sequence of events in his career, it is a series of lovely glimpses from his life, not necessarily in chronological order, designed to bring out certain salient characteristics of the man and make him live again. These scenes succeed one another like softly lighted tableaux and are suffused with the warmth and understanding of the loving woman who knew him more profoundly and intimately than any of us. Those who knew Max Ehrmann and the inspiration of his writings and his personality will want this book, not only for themselves but for their friends, now living away from Terre Haute, who knew him also. And they will thank Mrs. Max Ehrmann for accomplishing her self-imposed task in a manner worthy of the subject. Terre Haute's beloved poet lives on.

## New Ehrmann Book

Work of Late Terre Haute  
Author Acclaimed.

With the publication of "The Journal of Max Ehrmann," the past week, the work of Mrs. Ehrmann is getting out new editions of some of his writings has been completed.

Mrs. Ehrmann's first desire, she says, was merely to have some of his poems republished. But while she studied the eight volumes of press notices on all of his writings, she realized that some of his plays also ranked among his best poetic writing. Although each was published separately, she gathered them into one volume, "The Wife of Marobius and Other Plays," published in 1949 by Humphries, Inc., of Boston.

Meanwhile Mrs. Ehrmann was studying the manuscript of more than a thousand pages of the journal he kept for twenty years. Depressed by the world conflict in 1938, he laid the journal aside and never made an effort to edit it or have it published. To him it was mainly a mental relief and refuge for his thoughts.

In this journal, Max Ehrmann meditates on the world of his time. In it is found the same search for a constructive philosophy for living as is in his famous "A Prayer" and "Desiderata." His reflections through the years on literature, religion, science, and philosophy are interesting and pertinent to the troubled world of today as they were of his time.

Of the biography of the Terre Haute poet in which are many excerpts from the journal, Dr. Francis McConnell wrote, "Here is a veritable adventure in the highest realms. A masterpiece of excellence seldom brought together, high artistic and practical insights, a rare combination of spiritual discernment and good sense, keen recognition of things as they are in this world and prophetic vision of what they might be. The man who could see and write thus was a man of love and sensitiveness."

Dr. T. P. Martin of the Archives department of Indiana University has asked Mrs. Ehrmann for the original manuscript of the Journal for its archives, in which is a collection of more than 200,000 items which scholars throughout the country consult for source material.

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Dr. Worth Tippy, former pastor of the Centenary Methodist Church in Terre Haute who now has charge of the archives of DePauw University from which Mr. Ehrman graduated, also has spent time looking over the material and asked for the collection for DePauw.

"The Journal of Max Ehrmann" is filled with thought-provoking reflections on the problems of today and the years to come as well as those of the period in which it was written.

In reading it, one finds his own fitting description of it, "This Journal is a record of an endeavor to live humanistically in a world of turmoil and, what thinking persons experience, the search for repose. I wish to write the things that help me to live, a testimonial to the worth of life."

## *The Journal of Max Ehrmann*

### *Excerpts from letters to Mrs. Max Ehrmann*

*Claude Bowers*—"Not only I, but my wife and daughter have read with fascination and delight this Journal of Max Ehrmann. My wife has read it more than once for it is possible to open the book haphazard and find something both wise and beautiful. As Journals go, this deserves to rank with the classics. Let me congratulate you on a fine editorial job. This journal should have good reviews in papers that appeal to intellectual people. A most attractive volume."

*Mark Van Doren*—"I have read this Journal of Max Ehrmann with the greatest pleasure not only for the wise and generous thoughts but for the record it leaves of a man you are to be envied for having known as you did. Everybody must be grateful for what you have done to make that record clear and these thoughts available."

*H. V. Kaltenborn*—"I look forward to the pleasure of reading this Journal. If it echoes the fine spirit of the 'Desiderata' it will be very much worth while."

*Herbert Agar*—"I am delighted to have this book. I have heard from my friends that it is an important contribution."

*Raymond Fosdick*—"I have not had the opportunity to read it through, yet I thumbed it over last night and know it is the kind of book I shall read with the deepest interest. I shall take the liberty of passing it on to my brother."

*Bishop Francis McConnell*—"I have greatly enjoyed this Journal. I read every word of it many times. The excellencies we expect in masterly writing are all there—and other excellencies altogether unusual. There is superlative humility. The marvelous sensitiveness of the author was a vast delight to me. Above all there is a passionate interest in common humanity. There is too a regard for the great man. I could go on and on. This is an extraordinary book for which even the most ordinary of us must be grateful."

*Norman Thomas*—"I have looked over this Journal with much satisfaction and appreciation. The Middle West in particular is in great need just now of more people with a spirit like your husband's."

*Prof. J. M. Brumbaugh* (University of Oregon)—"I have read these memoirs to the last line—an exquisitely fine piece of literature, a spontaneous glow of beautiful, wise and inspiring thoughts."

*Dr. Preston Bradley*—"Max Ehrmann has a message for all times and for all time. His thought is universal."

*Elmer Davis*—"My heartiest thanks for this Journal into which I have been dipping when this rush of politics leaves me time. I particularly appreciate some of the reflections since I am the grandson of a German who always loved his native land but despised its government."

*Lewis Mumford*—"I am glad you published this Journal and am grateful for such a gift from a kindred soul."

*Rupert Hughes*—"I have been hoping to find words to express my continued and enlarged admiration for the prose and poetry of your husband. I have kept this Journal on my desk and dipped into it continually, at random, always finding something wise, beautifully thought out and expressed. There is a wonderful variety of subjects and moods and this book is already a classic. Please believe me proud to possess it."

*Bliss Perry*—"A beautiful piece of editorial work. I dropped all other reading in order to finish every word of it. I regret that I never met your gifted husband for we would have found a hundred things to talk about. I like especially the last ten years of the Journal—he grew steadily with deeper wisdom as a citizen of this puzzling world. I thank you warmly for the pleasure you have given me."

*Stanley Hornbeck*—"This Journal should be greatly helpful to those reaching for the truths and beauty of human existence. I am especially interested in the breadth of his interests, by the humaneness of his reactions to physical and spiritual phenomena. The story of his efforts to 'grow in wisdom' is inspiring as also the lucid sincerity of his recordings. So too is that of his activities as a man and a citizen."

## THE POEMS OF MAX EHRMANN

\$3.00

These poems have a high spiritual quality—so much thought and feeling, so much dignity, so much simplicity of feeling. He had a rare social vision. His passionate humanism flames in many vivid lines.

Claude Bowers

Max Ehrmann has been about the world, looking with a clear eye, and tells about it with a sharp pen... These poems are honest and straight-forward and are written by a man who has a grasp of literature and a power of expression.

Upton Sinclair

There is wisdom in this book—wisdom garnered from a lifetime of sensitive response to a variety of experiences—wisdom characteristic of a high prudence that has learned to evaluate the physical and the ideal, matter and experience.

Indiana Magazine of History

What a fine philosophy he had, and wonderfully well expressed. The portrait is that of a strong man; the words are those of an earnest, gentle, out-reaching and out-giving soul. In them and by them he lives on.

Stanley Hornbeck

A thoughtful book for thoughtful people. One rises from a perusal of these pages conscious of having communed with one of the world's teachers, if not prophets.

Brooklyn Citizen

Max Ehrmann stands unique in the field of American Literature. His "Desiderata" crystallizes the knowledge gained through centuries of experience by the human race and expresses it beautifully and forcefully. His poems have warmth and grace and charm and human understanding. He was a man of this century who understood his relation to it and incorporated the best of the past.

Dr. Merrill Moore

Here is much food for thought and inspiration for the soul... depth of spirit, calm repose and peaceful unity of life. Truly we need to pause in the turmoil of life for such a feast. A distinctly unique contribution to the literature of America. He has enriched and inspired our culture.

O. L. Bockstahler, Indiana University

When a man as creative and sensitive as Max Ehrmann will come to terms with the problems before us all, his contribution is important. Here is some thinking in heroic mold.

Dr. Preston Bradley, Chicago

"A Prayer" has simplicity, majesty, tenderness. The words are worthy to be engraved on granite.

Edwin Markham

Above all else he is a student of the deep problems of life... a philosophy of awareness and reconsideration of the real values of life. His road to happiness is strangely inviting.

Indianapolis Star

## Max Ehrmann: A Poet's Life — By Bertha K. Ehrmann

\$2.50

Here is a life of the spirit. Just as a life it is beautiful and worth while—so much food for thought. Years gave to Max Ehrmann wisdom and calm strength.

John Erle Grinnell

A veritable adventure in the highest realms. A masterpiece of excellencies seldom brought together, high artistic and practical insights, rare combination of spiritual discernment and good sense, keen recognition of things as they are and prophetic vision of what they might be.

Francis J. McConnell

Bruce Humphries, Inc. Publishers — Boston, Mass.  
and  
Max Ehrmann Publications — Terre Haute, Ind.

New York Times Book Review

"Here is the journal of a sensitive man of high aspiration. Memorable is the author's underlying philosophy, the random jottings on art, religion, philosophy and life. This Journal is also a record of the workings of an honest and sincere intelligence which observes realistically the march of humanity and tries seriously to find an answer to the Whence and Whither.

The Atlanta Journal

"Max Ehrmann's journal is an interesting document. He surveys life and the world during his span of years and never quite gives up hope that all is not lost. He writes with considerable feeling and covers a wide range of subject matter, including religion, philosophy, literature and life in general.

Dr. John Haynes Holmes

"This Journal is a quite remarkable book. I found myself dipping into it here and there, and always with rich reward. Now I have read the entire book keeping it by my bedside for night reading and I feel infinitely rewarded. This is a great book and the sort of thing we've got to have these days if we are to survive spiritually. His "Prayer" is memorable beyond words to say.

Alfred Noyes

"I am very happy indeed to find myself numbered among the friends of his thought.

Emeline Folsom Library  
MAX EHRMANN

## DONOT DESTROY

Max Ehrmann, widely known as scholar, poet and playwright, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He graduated from DePauw University and afterwards spent two years at Harvard University doing graduate work in law and philosophy. In 1938 DePauw gave him the degree of Doctor of Letters.

After practicing law for several years and being a deputy prosecuting attorney, he was connected with the business world for ten years. Then he retired to devote himself to literary work. He was married to Bertha Pratt King.

Max Ehrmann is the author of "The Poems of Max Ehrmann", "Jesus: A Passion Play", "The Wife of Marobius", "David and Bathsheba", "The Light of the Sun", "Be Quiet, I'm Talking", "Love from Many Angles", "A Virgin's Dream", and "Worldly Wisdom". His poems "A Prayer" and "Desiderata" are famous. His articles on philosophical and sociological subjects have been published in the Harvard Graduates Magazine, The Yale Review, the United States Magazine of Social Pathology, the Drama Magazine, etc. His forthcoming book "The Journal of Max Ehrmann" is a notable contribution to our literature.

The life of Max Ehrmann was not one of outward events but of intellectual activity, concerned with the social problems of the day and the spiritual meanings of life. His writings give counsel for wise living, and inspiring reflections on life and the eternal search for God.

By his serenity, high moral idealism and the nobility and beauty of his thoughts and language, Max Ehrmann has elevated and enriched the life and literature of his time.

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—Brooklyn Citizen.

### MAX EHRMANN PUBLICATIONS

Terre Haute, Indiana

## Max Ehrmann's Journal Given High Praise

The following critique of "The Journal of Max Ehrmann," Terre Haute poet, appeared in the book section of the New York Times, a few days ago. It was written by John Cournos, well known biographer and novelist, and was as follows:

Here is the journal of a sensitive man of high aspiration living in an age of which the French writer, Elie Faure said: "Everything is tragic, nothing is serious."

Entries begin in 1917 and end in 1936, nine years before the author's death. They cover his Indiana boyhood, his years at Harvard, his long and successful law practice.

It is not these biographical details that make the book memorable. Rather it is the author's underlying philosophy, the random jottings on art, religion, philosophy, life—reflections of Max Ehrmann's final years. There is a looking backward and a looking forward, a sense of timelessness which, paradoxically enough, in an age that a little concerned with eternal verities, makes the journal seem singularly dated.

"My voice is weak in the storm," the writer confesses in 1922, and his final words in 1936, where the diary ends, are "Insight and serenity; above all, serenity." These lines give some indication of the author's attitude to life and to things as they are. There is repeated the nostalgic refrain on past pre-war days, when it looked to Max Ehrmann, who was naturally a cheerful man, as if the world were really advancing in humanitarian and spiritual ways, when there was time to reflect, "to listen with humor upon the comedies of life." Where is that kindly humor, he asks, and sadly concludes that it has soured into ridicule. For a man who was inclined to look on the brighter side of things, what happened in 1914 and thereafter provided at last a measure of disillusion.

If this journal is a sort of crying in the wilderness, it is also a record of the workings of an honest and sincere intelligence which observes realistically the march of humanity and tries seriously to find "an answer to the Whence and Whither."

Terre Haute  
Tribune - Star

T. H. Authors May 4 '52

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